

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Christopher Tillquist, representative to the Sustainability Council

DATE: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Sustainability Council meeting held September 27, 2023

The meeting began with the usual “One Green Dream” introductions. Highlights include digging out a lawn and replacing it with a butterfly garden and ground cover, reducing use of clothes dryer, and planning sustainable holiday presents.

This month, there were no presentations, only standing reports within the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) framework: Planning & Administration, Operations, Education & Research, and Engagement. NB: In some cases, reports of some entities could fall under multiple areas.

In the area of Planning & Administration, a student representative has been actively engaging with the CFO Dan Durbin to see what efforts might be made to advance Sustainability; as a result, the student will be meeting with the Director of Purchasing. There was a discussion of identifying sustainability-friendly investment opportunities for retirement and foundation funds.

In the area of Operations, a report was made detailing HVAC renovations planned for Summer 2024, a planned upgrade for the Belknap Central Steam and Chilled Water Plant, and the possibility of restarting Energy Savings Performance Contracts.

In the area of Engagement, [Eco-Rep](#) sustainability training workshops will focus on growing mushrooms in October. Bombas (a sock company) continues to provide socks for the unhoused, and a work group at UofL organizing distribution of donated socks (contact Patty Payette for further information). The Student Sustainability Coalition has been re-launched. There will be a Campus Sustainability Fair on October 25—look for an announcement in UofL Today. Students (SGA) have proposed a resolution to provide signage for the Garden Commons and to edit the University website to better highlight awards and information about sustainability.

In the area of Education & Research, progress is being made on implementing a dual-credit SUST101 program with JCPS and JCTC, with a dream of eventually setting up a Sustainability Academy at JCPS.