

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Christopher Tillquist, representative to the Sustainability Council

DATE: Wednesday, November 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Sustainability Council meeting held October 25, 2023

The meeting began with the usual “One Green Dream” introductions. Some folks reported personal efforts such as donating furniture for re-use and intentionally reducing landfill garbage. Other folks reported efforts made as part of their role at UofL, such as using greener public transportation to attend a conference and shutting off lights on the way out of the building at the end of day. Every small effort helps!

This month there was a presentation comparing two different software programs (old and new) for documenting greenhouse gas emissions. The new tool (SIMAP) gives similar results as the old (Clean Air-Cool Planet) and allows for estimating UofL’s nitrogen footprint generally as well as specific gasses (e.g., CO₂, CH₄, and NO_x); additionally, it permits third-party verification.

In the area of Planning & Administration there was nothing to report as the latest meeting had been cancelled.

It is in the area of Operations that sustainably minded efforts can make the most readily identifiable gains in documentable improvements. Sajid Mian (Assistant VP for Facilities Management) is the representative to the Sustainability Council. This month he reported several items of interest including plans for major summer renovation of buildings to improve efficiency (min. 30% improvement), indoor air quality, and comfort; planning Asset Preservation Projects with clear sustainability goals—there are 123 renovation projects on the approved list; and, working with the city over the soon-to-be-phased out LouVelo program and increased reliance on Lime and Bird scooters.

In the area of Engagement, Sustainability Week went well with events all over campus. To highlight one event, the Student Sustainability Coalition held “Climate Change Is Spooky Trivia Night” at the Red Barn with 10% of funds raised going to the Louisville Nature Center. The Workers’ Rights Consortium is exploring opportunities to improve UofL Athletics approaches to sustainable branding and contracts.

In the area of Education & Research, there was a discussion about the future of the Interdisciplinary MA in Sustainability regarding where its academic home should be (likely in A&S).

Finally, Dr. Justin Mog (Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Initiatives) offers tours showcasing UofL efforts for sustainability.