

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Christopher Tillquist, representative to the Sustainability Council

DATE: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Sustainability Council meeting held November 29, 2023

The meeting began with the usual “One Green Dream” introductions. Many of the efforts reported related to holiday theme: gifts to children in need, participating in a winter coat drive, recycling wrapping paper, and giving experiences rather than things. Every small effort helps!

In the area of Education and Outreach, there was a discussion of the possibility of team-teaching topics around sustainability; this led to further discussion about the practice of team-teaching generally. Mention of interdisciplinary sustainability research led to a suggestion that a Sustainability Group be formed for research in sustainability; PIVOT (<https://louisville.edu/research/researchers/funding>) returns over 1,000 results for a simple search on the keyword: sustainability. It was suggested that the Council ask the Provost for an internal funding mechanism to support interdisciplinary community-based research.

In the area of Planning and Administration, discussion covered a variety of topics: proposals to more intentionally bring sustainability to retirement options (including renewing a request to the Faculty Senate to demand that TIAA enact a moratorium on investments in fossil fuels, farmland, and industrial agriculture), mention was made of the official UofL report on Inclusive Excellence and Belonging Opportunities (<https://louisville.edu/diversity/cultural-and-equity-center/diveduc/23.24InclusiveExcellenceandBelongingOpportunitiesADAPassed.pdf>), and better tracking of workplace injuries.

In the area of Operations, the grounds crew is busy preparing for inclement weather and working to use less salt and more non-chemical methods, planning is underway to plant more trees this coming spring in an effort to replace natural loss of mature trees. Efforts were planned to make this past Monday’s Late Night Breakfast zero waste.

In the area of Engagement, discussion included a report of the efforts by UofL women’s tennis and soccer teams participating in the community sustainability efforts (planting trees and helping with composting), while Bombas Socks continues to provide socks for people experiencing homelessness, and pumpkin composting happened again.

Finally, Justin Mog et al. provided some highlights from their recent attendance at the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.