

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Christopher Tillquist, representative to the Sustainability Council

DATE: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Sustainability Council meeting held August 30, 2023

The meeting began with having each individual present in person or online share one “green” thing that they had accomplished since the previous meeting of the Council. The individual accomplishments ranged from personal (reduced use of water for home landscaping; eating home-grown vegetables; reducing car commute) to professional (research involving carbon sequestration; administrative efforts to reuse furniture donated by Humana and Commonwealth Credit Union; planning a vegan, zero-waste Green Threads workshop). Similar to our Faculty Senate meetings, there were presentations concerning efforts occurring outside of the Sustainability Council, and then the meeting wrapped up with reports from standing committees.

The first presentation was by Tanvi Sharma of [Sasaki Associates](#) concerning the sustainability components of the soon-to-be-released campus master plan (which is a concerted effort to join the Strategic Plan with the University’s plan for strategic growth). While many details are forthcoming, members of the Council were enthusiastic about how well the plan reflected intentional inclusion of sustainability goals (e.g., plans for efficient utilities, strategies for meeting our Greenhouse Gas Emissions goals).

The second presentation was by Robin Frederick (UofL Sustainability 2022-24 Carbon Accounting Intern) and Justin Mog (UofL Sustainability) providing details of the 2021-22 Greenhouse Gas Emissions report. In sum, greenhouse gas emission by the University has been reduced an impressive 54% during 2008–2021!

The Sustainability Council has five committees and standing updates from several parts of the University.

Committee Updates:

- Education & Research: Has not met over the summer. No report.
- Planning & Administration: Reviewed STARS rating; work to ensure that all members of the UofL community have participated in cultural competence trainings and/or activities; in the area of affordability and access, increase of low-income or aid-eligible students from 38% to 75+%, and Advancement is prioritizing having a staff member dedicated to raising money for need-based scholarships

- Investor Responsibility: Increase of investments in sustainability-positive from 7.4% to 30+%;
- Operations: The Shumard oak in front of the Library (quad-side) will be removed for safety reasons. Every effort was made to save it.
- Community Engagement: In the area of community service, use of the Helper Helper app tracks student service hours; in the area of staff professional development in sustainability opportunities for staff lag behind those for faculty ([Green Threads](#)).

Standing Updates:

- Athletics: Completed LED lighting project in the volleyball arena; switched from Waste Management to Rumpke (Rumpke will offer recycling haul after every event).
- Dining: During Welcome Week, excess food from catering (350 lbs.) was donated to [Feed Louisville](#); President Schatzel has requested that the breakfast and lunch reception for her inauguration be zero waste.
- Student: The Student Sustainability Coalition has an office UPA302A and is available for working with K-12 schools and offers professional development opportunities for students interested in sustainability.
- Sustainability and anti-racism: No report, other than the KY state legislature may pass legislation in this area.
- Sustainability in the media: Available on the [UofL Sustainability News](#) page