

Faculty Senate Sustainability Committee: Report for 2022-23 academic year

Committee membership

Chair: Sarah Lester

Members:

Akash Gunjan
Will Hanley
Charles Hofacker
Eundeok Kim
Amy McKenna
Erin Ryan
Jeff Chanton

Ex Officio: Elizabeth Swiman, Director of Sustainability

Student representative: Shaifali Prajapati

Emeritus faculty: Ian McDonald

Committee meetings

The committee met by Zoom during the following dates:

- September 9, 2022
- September 30, 2022
- October 21, 2022
- November 18, 2022
- December 2, 2022
- January 20, 2023
- February 17, 2023
- March 24, 2023
- April 14, 2023

Major activities and accomplishments for 2022-2023

Creating the Sustainability and Climate Solutions Grant Program

The Committee worked with the FSU Office of the President and the FSU Office of Research Development to create a new internal research grant program available to all FSU faculty. Total funds of up to \$1,000,000 were made available for two-year grants of up to \$150,000 to pursue research on any aspect of sustainability or climate change. The Committee assisted with the development of the funding call, application requirements, submission process, and review criteria. Proposals were due in early February 2023 and awards should be announced sometime in June 2023. The vision is for this to become an ongoing program, pending continued support from the Office of the President.

- **Grant website:** <https://internalfunding.research.fsu.edu/programs/sustainability-climate-solutions-grant-program/>
- **FSU News story about the program:** <https://news.fsu.edu/news/university-news/2022/12/19/new-fsu-program-to-fund-research-focused-on-sustainability-and-climate-solutions/>

Informing FSU Strategic Planning initiatives

The Committee teamed up with the RIDER (Resilient Infrastructure & Disaster Response) Center at FSU to make sure that sustainability and resiliency remain foci for the goals of the Office of the President and the FSU strategic planning process. To that aim, the Committee met with RIDER Center leadership and developed a joint memo regarding the University Strategic Planning Refresh Process in which we proposed a new strategic plan goal focused on sustainability and described existing strategic plan (2017-2022) components that reference or are related to sustainability and should be maintained in future plans. Although we were not successful in making sustainability a high-level strategic planning goal, these efforts have kept sustainability issues within the strategic plan and on the radar of university leadership.

Connecting with student groups

The Committee sees undergraduate and graduate students as key motivators for sustainability reforms on campus. As such, we made a point to develop stronger connections with relevant student groups on campus so that we can understand student concerns and priorities and identify opportunities to collaborate with student initiatives. We interacted with the following student groups:

- FSU Presidential Scholars: the scholars focused on sustainability this year (SustainaNoles) and some of our members participated in round table discussion hosted by the scholars in February.
- Student Government Association: the Committee's student representative met periodically with the SGA sustainability officer

Other key issues and priorities

Some of the other issues and priorities that we discussed as a Committee and hope to advance in future years include:

- Sustainability Curriculum
 - o Development of a sustainability minor
 - o Development of a sustainability certificate
 - o Creating a sustainability speaker series
 - o Working with the Registrar's office to better tag sustainability related courses
- Operations
 - o Creating paid parking permits for students to incentivize car alternatives
 - o Improving the walkability of campus
 - o Reducing/eliminating single use plastics on campus

Plan for 2023-2024

Will Hanley and Amy McKenna will co-chair the committee