

Sustainability Council Annual Report to the Faculty Assembly / University President's Office

October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020

Membership:

- Bibiana Gutierrez, Chair
- Betsy Evans, Secretary
- Crystal Graham
- Jeanne Qvarnstrom
- Carlos Gonzalez-Gonzalez
- Patricia Harveson
- Chris Herrera
- Carolyn Barrientes
- Kevin Young (RGC)
- Marvin Cruz
- Jeanne Pinkerton
- Rocío Aguado

Meetings Held:

- Strategic Plan meeting for target updates, October 2019
- Council Meeting, November 8, 2019
- Council Meeting, March 2, 2020

Goals for the 2019-20 Governing Year:

- Sustainability Minor subcommittee movement (launch Sustainability minor)

Accomplishments for the 2019-20 Governing Year:

- Dr. Bibiana Gutierrez and Betsy Evans presented at AASHE Annual Conference October 2019

Gutierrez, B. & Evans, B. (2019, October). *Advancing Sustainability in Conservative Climates: Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approaches*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Spokane, WA.

Evans, B. (2019, October). *Using Sustainability Principles to Impact Library Education: Information Literacy, Resources and Services*. Poster session presented at the annual conference of the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Spokane, WA.

- Sustainability Council representation on the TLNI Planning Committee (now Access and Excellence Committee), November 2019 to present
- Opened discussion with Director of Environmental Services – City of Alpine about recycling programs, February 2020
- Met with the Pete Gallego and Mike Pacheco, June 2020
- Filmed Sustainability Feature for New Student Orientation and the SRSU YouTube Channel, July 2020
 - o New Student Orientation provided #SRSUSustainability water bottles to all incoming freshmen, July 2020
- Participated in discussions with City of Alpine reps in Kokernot Park/Poet's Grove project

- Made aware of recycling initiative collaboration between Facilities and OIT with plans for future promotion of similar events, July 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL TARGET ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Goal 5, Objective 3: Advance and provide support for sustainability initiatives throughout the university.

- Strategy 1: Develop an Office of Sustainability
 - o **July 2020 update:** The proposal submitted spring 2019 for an Office of Sustainability line item was not funded but will be reviewed and resubmitted in a revised form. A Sustainability budget for \$5000 was approved and used for conference and travel; remainder is to be used for AASHE attendance fall 2020. Programming and activities (including survey data capture) for spring 2020 were precluded by COVID-19 pandemic. Batter recycling inquiries undertaken.
- Strategy 2: Expand the current SRSU recycling program
 - o **July 2020 update:** it has been determined, due to lack of evidence thereof, that there currently is no official recycling program at SRSU, however it has been recorded that grassroots recycling efforts take place across the Alpine campus. An education campaign was undertaken and a report created, submitted to EC by August 31, 2020. This was important information to ascertain in terms of future plans to consider the viability of developing a new recycling program for the University.
- Strategy 3: Implement a sustainability performance measurement framework, e.g. STARS that emphasizes the environmental, social, and economic benefits of sustainable practices
 - o **July 2020 update:** As part of Sustainability Council's 2019 budget proposal to the EC, a plan was developed and proposed to include funding for faculty and staff liaisons [Sustainability Facilitators] to collect data for the STARS assessment, however this aspect of the proposal was not funded. This is a time intensive task requiring human power to research, collect, and record the information from across all campuses to create and maintain the STARS assessment.
- Strategy 4: Become a member of national, state, and local organizations supporting sustainability efforts in higher education (e.g., Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, National Council for Science and the Environment)
 - o **July 2020 update:** The university continues to be a member of AASHE, funded by the 2019 budget proposal. Two staff/faculty attended and presented at the 2019 AASHE Annual Conference during which they also attended the TRACS meeting. Did not attend the TRACS summit in 2020; will consider going Spring 2021 if pandemic allows.
- Strategy 5: Develop a multidisciplinary sustainability minor
 - o **July 2020 update:** Proposal not yet submitted to Provost/Dean. Subcommittee tasked with this strategy will need to incorporate representation of a broader base of stakeholders at the university since sustainability curricula has continued to increase across all campuses
- Strategy 6: Develop a plan for incorporating sustainability into Frontier University culture

- **July 2020 update:** Consistent branding and messaging is forming through collaboration with Enrollment Marketing and the President's Office (social media) to make #SRSUsustainability a tag used across all four campuses on social media and virtual marketing utilizing the "secondary green" branding color and white Lobo from our SRSU Branding and Marketing kit for (limited) print materials

*note that the University closure in March 2020 dampened abilities to send out 2nd Annual Sustainability Survey on time (survey will be distributed Fall 2020)

Pending Action:

- Joining TRACS/attending TRACS summit
- Sustainability Minor proposal
- Meeting/branding with Office of University Communications
- Continued growth of culture of sustainability at SRSU

Chair or Designee Contact:

Betsy Evans (2019-20 Sustainability Council secretary)