**Committee on Sustainability   
Chelsea Landolin, RN, MS, NP, Chair**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022  
3:05– 4:30 p.m.**[**Zoom videoconference**](https://ucsf.zoom.us/j/94109580273?pwd=RWllZUVydzdyaUljK1NLb0U3c2R2Zz09)

**ATTENDING:** C. Landolin, M. Zlatnik, K. Gundling, L. Hertel, S. Ho, M. Seielstad, K. Lichter, E. Greenwood

**ABSENT:** K. Brooks, N. Iverson, K. Gruenberg, A. Karwa,

Chair Chelsea Landolin called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. via Zoom. A quorum was present.

1. **Consent Calendar** 
   1. The minutes from February 17 were approved.
2. **Chair’s Report** *– Chelsea Landolin*
3. The Executive Council met on March 10. The main topics for discussion were a joint graduate program and the proposed Theme Year on Decarbonizing UCSF. The Theme Year received unanimous support from the Executive Council. The Council discussed potentially extending it beyond one year in the hopes that more could be accomplished in two years and asked the Committee on Sustainability to draft a two-year plan for the Theme Year.
4. The process of committee appointments for next year is underway within the Committee on Committees (CoC). Members who are interested in appointments or any particular roles should reach out to Chair Landolin to be connected with the CoC’s point person for this committee.
5. **Vice-Chair’s Report** – *Marya Zlatnik* 
   1. The UC-wide Assembly decided not to vote on the Fossil Fuel Memorial in between its regular meetings. The vote will occur at its next formal meeting on April 13. As a result, the general faculty vote will extend into summer, which may make it harder to get out the vote. This issue may be less relevant for UCSF than for other campuses because UCSF is not on the same academic cycle. UCLA and UCSD student groups are working to promote the Memorial.
6. **Theme Year Updates/Discussion**
   1. The Committee on Sustainability has been tasked with developing a plan for activities and goals for the Theme Year, which will span the next two academic years and should involve the entire Senate. The goal is to have a plan in place by midsummer because the retreat will be in September. The committee discussed a path forward for developing a comprehensive plan (e.g., a Gantt chart of projects with desired collaborators for each project).
      1. A member suggested considering the extent to which other groups (e.g., Office of Sustainability) should be engaged in the process of developing a plan. The Academic Senate may be able to help accelerate these groups’ ongoing projects as part of the Theme Year. A member suggested thinking about how equity should be incorporated in the Theme Year and involving the Center for Climate, Health, and Equity in planning. Additionally, members noted that it will be crucial to involve students and residents in the Theme Year, including in the brainstorming process.
      2. A member suggested organizing possible efforts into three groups: those that are out of faculty and staff’s control (e.g., electrification), those that are under faculty and staff control but need to be addressed collectively (e.g., Advance, sustainable commuting), and those that are under individual control (e.g., clinical care and lab management).
      3. In the Executive Council meeting, Chair Landolin listed evolving the culture of academic travel, innovation in virtual communications, efforts to electrify UCSF campus, and supporting UCSF Micro-Mobility in enabling sustainable commutes as possible Theme Year projects, although other projects may be identified in the planning process.
      4. The committee discussed the idea of encouraging virtual meetings and conferences in more detail.
         1. Committee member Gundling shared that leadership is enthusiastic about developing a telemedicine Center of Excellence. Faculty developing modules could get credit in Advance.
         2. A member noted that achieving balance is crucial – sometimes seeing patients virtually is fine, but in other cases, an in-person conversation can change the diagnosis completely. Members clarified that the goal of these efforts will not be to eliminate in-person contact entirely. For example, some conferences are important for networking, and others are better for joining virtually. The aim is to develop guidelines to ensure that in-person meetings and travel serve a purpose and to empower faculty to make rational decisions. These tools could eventually be utilized across academic institutions.
         3. A member noted that the NIH Study Section system is being reorganized, and the NIH is requesting comments on the reorganization [here](https://www.csr.nih.gov/reviewmatters/2022/02/14/seeking-public-comment-on-csrs-2022-2027-strategic-plan/). A major question being considered is whether panel retreats and meetings should be in person or virtual. Many comments are pushing for holding virtual meetings and using the savings to pay the reviewers. UCSF may be able to find a way to support these efforts.
         4. A member shared an article about how virtual meetings can enhance diversity and accessibility, available [here](https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2022/02/24/how-virtual-convenings-can-enhance-diversity-equity-inclusion-and-accessibility/). Members noted that virtual meetings are also easier for faculty with children.
         5. A member asked about UCSF’s current efforts on academic travel. No official policies have been set yet. Stephen Ettinger, a fourth-year medical student who presented in the January meeting, has completed a paper discussing the results of focus group discussions with faculty on life before, during, and after the pandemic. This committee has an opportunity to leverage this work to develop a proposal for guidelines that will be exciting and meaningful for the faculty.
         6. Members also discussed ways to reduce the impact of attending a meeting. For example, meetings could be combined with family visits or vacations to reduce the number of trips. The guidelines can include specific recommendations for the use of carbon credits at the campus or local community level.
      5. The committee agreed to schedule a four-hour retreat, including other sustainability leaders on campus, in the Spring to brainstorm and develop a plan for the Theme Year.
7. **Earth Day Updates** –*Katherine Gundling*
   1. Medical students will announce the results of the Planetary Health Report Card on Earth Day. Over 60 medical schools worldwide participate in the Planetary Health Report Card.
   2. The Cool Campus Challenge will be happening throughout Earth Month. Individuals or groups can participate in Earth Day activities and earn points, with prizes for those who earn the most points.

* 1. The Earth Center is organizing a viewing of *Don’t Look Up* followed by a celebrity discussion about its relevance to climate change.
  2. The Office of Sustainability may be running a Waste to Art competition to turn medical center waste into art. The competition aims to draw attention to the amount of waste created.
  3. An Earth Day Chancellor’s Town Hall is scheduled for the Friday before Earth Day. More information is forthcoming.
  4. Other UC campuses are also planning Earth Day activities. More information is available [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19QmMz35RguwhDcG4xEVQ9dA6vSzsEmMkXDky8zNrebQ/edit).

1. **Updates from Subcommittees** 
   1. Advance – Committee member L. Hertel is meeting with the Vice Dean of Academic Affairs on April 27 to discuss incorporating Sustainability as a field in Advance and shared an outline of the presentation for that meeting. Suggestions from committee members will be incorporated into the presentation, and an updated version will be shared at the next meeting for additional feedback.
2. **Systemwide Reviews** *– Liz Greenwood*

The following items are currently under systemwide review.

1. Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Supplement to Military Pay - Comments due April 12
2. Proposed Presidential Policy on UC Research Data - Second Systemwide Review - Comments due April 12
3. **Old Business**

None.

1. **New Business**

None.

1. **Adjournment**

Chair Landolin adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Academic Senate Staff:

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