



Stanislaus
State



Committee for Sustainable Futures Annual Report
AY 2018-2019

Respectfully submitted by the Committee for Sustainable Futures, May 16,
2019

The Committee for Sustainable Futures – AY 2018-2019

Committee membership:

Administration:

- Darrell Haydon (VP/CFO Business and Finance)
- Julia Reynoso (Director - Facilities, Planning & Finance)
- Wendy Olmstead (Sustainability Coordinator)

Faculty:

- Austin Avwunudiogba (Geography)
- Phil Garone (History)
- Alison McNally (Geography)
- Tony Perrello (English)

Students:

- USU Representative – German Silva
- ASI Representative – ASI Director of Environment – Monique Bravo (Fall 2018)
- ASI Director for Graduate Students – Diana Avalos (Spring 2019)

At the end of AY 2018-19, the name of the Committee for Sustainable Futures was changed to the Council for Sustainable Futures to reflect the nature of membership, which, for faculty, is by application, based on sustainability experience and interest, rather than by general election. The designation of “Council” reflects this difference. As of AY 2019-20, faculty members of the Council will hold the title of “Faculty Fellows.”

Progress during Summer 2018:

With funding provided by the VP/CFO Business and Finance, four members of the CSF (Austin Avwunudiogba, Phil Garone, Wendy Olmstead, and German Silva) attended the 17th Annual California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC), held at UC Santa Barbara on July 9–12. CSF members attended numerous conference sessions to gain information about a wide variety of sustainability practices and initiatives undertaken by UC, CSU, and Community College campuses, with the goal of incorporating the most promising of them into our Sustainability Strategic Plan (which the CSF developed during AY 2018-19) and institutionalizing them at Stanislaus State. Some of the sessions focused specifically on how students are involved with the incorporation of sustainability into their campus communities. The topics varied from food pantry funding and organization, student-run composting, reuse and recycling stores/hubs, and sustainability programming. These ideas were not only reported back to the Committee for Sustainable Futures, but were also reported to the University Student Union Board of Directors to provide some insights into how students might implement sustainability at our own campus. We note that for Stanislaus State to reach its sustainability goals, it is essential that many of the initiatives be student-driven.

Progress during Fall 2018:

The CSF met every two weeks during the Fall 2018 semester, and accomplished the following:

1. Distributed a Student Sustainability Survey (which the CSF developed in Spring 2018) and analyzed the results of 385 student responses. The survey aimed to better understand what students know about sustainability, and what sort of

programming they may wish to see on campus. The committee believes that it is imperative to understand the campus climate related to sustainability as the CSF begins to develop future opportunities and communities related to sustainability. This survey was the second of two created and distributed by the CSF; in Spring 2018 the CSF distributed a Faculty, Staff, and Administration Sustainability Survey to learn how our faculty, staff, and administration view, conceptualize, incorporate, and implement sustainability throughout our campus.

2. Purchased STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) subscription from AASHE (The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) in November 2018. “The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®) is a voluntary, self-reporting framework for helping colleges and universities track and measure their sustainability progress. STARS is intended to engage and recognize the full spectrum of higher education institutions, from community colleges to research universities. STARS encompasses long-term sustainability goals for already high-achieving institutions, as well as entry points of recognition for institutions that are taking first steps toward sustainability” (STARS 2.0 Technical Manual, p. 10). STARS data transfers easily into requirements for other review mechanisms, including the Princeton Review. Data collection will begin in the Fall 2019 semester. This is the first step toward conducting a campus-wide STARS audit, by which the University can analyze its strengths in sustainability and areas for improvement, with the goal of achieving a STARS Sustainability ranking (bronze, silver, gold, or platinum) that can be used to incentivize further sustainability improvements and to market our University’s sustainability credentials to attract and retain students.
3. The CSF continued to develop the University’s Sustainability Website (<https://www.csustan.edu/sustainability>), which now includes a message from President Ellen Junn and webpages for Academics, Facilities, the Council for Sustainable Futures, News & Events, Resources, Involvement, and a link to the University’s most recent Sustainability Report.



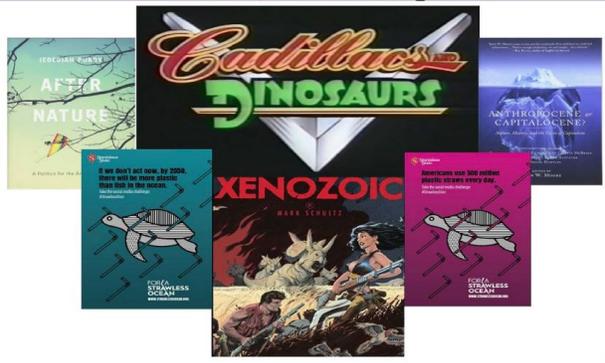
4. The CSF hosted a viewing and discussion of the documentary film, *A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet* (Bullfrog Films, 2012), in September 2018 in the University Library. The CSF continues to discuss how to increase student interest and attendance at sustainability film showings, as well as the choice of a new venue for academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21, while the Library is undergoing renovation.
5. “Strawless Stan”: The CSF purchased the educational screening rights to the STRAWS documentary (<http://www.strawsfilm.com/>) and screened it during the week of September 24-27 in our main dining facility (approximately 2,000 students move through this venue daily), while also tabling to educate and encourage participation in the social media “Strawless Challenge” on Instagram. This social media challenge prize giveaway, designed to communicate the rationale behind eliminating plastic straws—including the problem of the excessive use of disposable plastics that are polluting our oceans and harming marine life—resulted in contact with 900 students. The documentary is available to the campus community via the University Library. We have witnessed a 60% reduction in straw use overall in our dining venues since we removed the plastic straws and provided paper straws only on demand. We maintain a small supply of plastic straws on hand for our community with disabilities, and alternative straws are available for purchase in dining venues.



6. Tony Perrello, University Outstanding Professor for AY 2017-18, presented a lecture in the Faculty Development Center on October 24 titled “Sustainability in the Anthropocene: Metaphors, Dinosaurs, and Drinking Straws,” based on the animated series, “Cadillacs and Dinosaurs,” set 500 years after an unspecified, but anthropogenic, global catastrophe in the twenty-first century. The challenges faced by the survivors in this post-apocalyptic America, in which “the forces of nature have spun wildly out of control” and “dinosaurs have returned to reclaim the earth,” informs our own, current eco-challenges.

2017-18 Outstanding Professor Dr. TONY PERRELLO
presents

**Sustainability in the Anthropocene: Metaphors,
Dinosaurs, and Drinking Straws**



Wednesday, October 24, 3:30-4:30 pm, FDC 118

Sponsored by the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

7. The CSF received funding from the Provost's Office to form a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) based on Teaching Sustainability. The FLC met in Spring 2019 and is described in the Spring 2019 section of this report.
8. In November, the CSF delivered an invited presentation to President Junn and her Cabinet, highlighting CSF achievements during AY 2018-19.
9. In December, the CSF delivered an invited presentation for the Data-Sharing and Assessment Showcase Event series, under the direction of AVPAA Shawna Young, highlighting CSF achievements during AY 2018-19 and the beginning of Fall 2019.
10. The CSF met with Betsy Eudey, Faculty Director for Advising and Learning, and Keith Nainby and Rich Wallace, Academic Success Center (ASC) Faculty Fellows, for a preliminary discussion of the possibility of developing a Structured Exploratory Emphasis (SEE) in Sustainability. The CSF expressed considerable interest in doing so, while noting that such curricular development is beyond the scope of the CSF itself and would necessarily involve a larger group of University personnel in order to move forward.

Progress during Spring 2019:

The CSF met every two weeks during the Spring 2019 semester, and accomplished the following:

1. The CSF expanded its membership to include graduate students, with the addition of ASI Director for Graduate Students – Diana Avalos.
2. The Faculty Learning Community on Teaching Sustainability explored a multi-disciplinary approach to the scholarship of teaching sustainability using the book, *Teaching Sustainability/Teaching Sustainably*. Meeting in ten weekly 90-minute sessions throughout the Spring semester, eleven faculty from nine disciplines examined the rationale behind incorporating sustainability into the curriculum, examples of courses in varied disciplines, and approaches to embedding sustainable practice as a core value on campus. The meetings were held in the Faculty Development Center, with support provided by Shradha Tibrewal.

3. The CSF and Geography Department hosted a screening of the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) Webinar, “Water and the Future of the San Joaquin Valley,” on February 22, 2019 in the GIS lab. The 4.5-hour program featured a variety of presentations by experts in the field, and was co-sponsored by Fresno State’s California Water Institute and the PPIC Water Policy Center.



PPIC Webinar:
Water and the Future of the San Joaquin Valley

Date: February 22, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Location: GIS Lab (L-110G)

The San Joaquin Valley—California’s largest agricultural region and an important contributor to the nation’s food supply—is in a time of great change and growing water stress. New cooperative approaches are needed to bring groundwater basins into balance, provide safe drinking water, and manage water and land to benefit people and nature. Authors of a new PPIC study and a diverse group of experts will discuss key issues and solutions to some of the valley’s looming challenges.

The program is co-hosted by Fresno State’s California Water Institute and the PPIC Water Policy Center. The research was supported with funding from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, the Tomkat Foundation, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Water Foundation.

Sponsored by the Committee for Sustainable Futures, the Geography Program, and the Center for Applied Spatial Analysis (CASA). csustan.edu/sustainability/
csustan.edu/geography







ENGAGING · EMPOWERING · TRANSFORMING

4. The CSF applied for, and received, an IDEAS grant for a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) to be held in Fall 2019 to explore sustainability teaching methods using the campus and community as a living lab for active learning within current and future courses. Faculty will be provided with resources that examine the rationale behind incorporating sustainability in the curriculum, examples of courses in varied disciplines, how the physical environment of the classroom and pedagogy need to reflect the values being taught, and approaches to embedding sustainable practice as a core value on campus. Facilities Directors will present potential curriculum and lab resources to participating faculty, including carbon, water, energy, and waste management, transportation, green practices, and the university’s urban forest. The Dining Services Director will describe methods for food waste reduction. Agricultural Studies faculty and the Master Gardener will present the sustainable garden and demonstration tree crops. Service Learning will provide an overview of student learning objectives for service learning and opportunities for sustainability-related community-based education.
5. The CSF applied for, and received, an IDEAS grant for a Sustainability “OneBook” project. The first step towards a campus culture of sustainability will be accomplished by engaging and empowering the campus community through sustainability literacy. This project allows for a faculty/staff reading of a “OneBook,” a highly readable and understandable book that will provide a common language that allows the campus community to share ideas, learn

- together, and support existing and future sustainability efforts. An appropriate book will be picked by a committee composed of members from the Council for Sustainable Futures, the President, Cabinet, and faculty leadership, from a list of books utilized successfully for similar purposes across the United States. This innovation holds the potential to set the tone for student understanding of sustainability-focused curriculum and to further contribute to the creation of a campus-wide culture of sustainability. A proposed assessment method will be used to determine if the book would be appropriate for reading as a OneBook by all students participating in the Fall 2019 Freshman Convocation.
6. The Office of the Vice President for Business & Finance issued a call for general faculty from all departments/programs interested in serving as one of four Faculty Fellow for Campus Sustainability beginning in the 2019–20 academic year. These newly-titled Faculty Fellows will continue the work of the four founding faculty members of the Committee for Sustainable Futures (henceforth the Council for Sustainable Futures) to help develop, grow, and institutionalize sustainability initiatives on campus and in partnership with the local community.
 7. The CSF supported the ASI/USU Board of Directors Green Week Initiative. The student members of the CSF from both ASI and USU elected to sponsor a Green Week event through the ASI Board of Directors Initiative Fund. This event, spanning the week of Saturday, April 20 through Friday, April 26, included a raffle giveaway, sustainability focused daily challenges, a tabling event, and general outreach. Members of the CSF helped in the planning and hosting of the event and provided their support of the various events, such as Chartwells adding a Meatless Monday menu option. The CSF believes that student-driven sustainability efforts are an important part of institutionalizing sustainability, and thus made every effort to support the ASI/USU representatives' initiative.
 8. FLC on Teaching Sustainability presentation: On May 7, 2019, faculty from English, Political Science, Sociology, Agriculture, Nursing, Modern Languages, Criminal Justice, Communication Studies, and Computer Science presented their plans to incorporate a unit or module on sustainability into one or more of their courses, and as a group, the FLC adopted the sustainability practice of eliminating single use plastic water bottles from their personal lives.
 9. IDEAS Reception: On May 8, 2019, the CSF presented details of the committee's two successful IDEAS grant proposals (described above) to the campus community.
 10. The largest share of the CSF's time in Spring semester was dedicated to developing a Working "Sustainability Strategic Plan" for the University. This draft plan includes an Introduction to the CSF's work and accomplishments during academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19, the Mission Statement for the CSF, a discussion of how the Sustainability Strategic Plan supports the University Strategic Plan, a list of the 5 Priorities that underlie the Sustainability Strategic Plan, and, most substantially, the 7 Sustainability Strategic Plan Goals, each of which includes specific Objectives, and Strategies to achieves those Objectives. This Working Sustainability Strategic Plan has been forwarded to Darrell Haydon (VP/CFO Business and Finance), and the next step is to circulate the Plan among relevant University stakeholders and hold forums for discussion, comment, and revision, leading to a final version of the Plan that will then go through proper University governance channels for approval. These next steps will begin in Summer and Fall 2019.
 11. The renamed Council for Sustainable Futures, which includes both new and continuing members, will continue this work going forward into AY 2019-20.