March 4, 2015

Members Present: Kraig Steffen (Chair), Michael Cavanaugh, Lucrecia Garcia Iommi, Kathryn Phillips, Aaron Van Dyke, Yohuru Williams

Members Absent: James Biardi, Carol Ann Davis, Toby Svoboda (on sabbatical)

Called to order at 10:07am.

Meeting began with a discussion of Campus Sustainability Plan (CSP) draft. Steffen pointed out the broad positive impact of the CSP across all university divisions. Phillips commented that the CSP could be infused into the curriculum. Lommi added that the infusion could be cross-disciplinary. The committee’s general consensus is that this would be a positive additional outcome of the CSP.

Steffen asked that a subcommittee be formed and charged “to consider a sustainability curricular component for Fairfield University.”

Cavanaugh raised the concern that this may make sustainability a checkbox requirement and the committee may wish to engage sustainability through existing programs instead of creating new requirements. Other members suggested that sustainability might be infused into existing University programs including: living and learning, service learning, cornerstone classes and First Year Experiences.

Garcia Iommi and Phillips volunteered to brainstorm how sustainability might be integrated into the Fairfield University experience. They will report back to the committee.

Phillips moved “the FCS strongly endorse the CSP and encourage its acceptance and implementation. Garcia Iommi seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

The committee moved to a discussion of an e-mail sent from David Frassinelli to Biardi regarding the removal of invasive plants from areas abutting the new lacrosse stadium. Biardi requested that the FCS take up the issue.

The committee discussed the significance and impact of invasive species. The general consensus is that it is reasonable for a subcommittee to inspect the area and report back. Steffen and Cavanaugh volunteered to serve on this subcommittee which will also request clarification from Facilities regarding their specific plan for the area (i.e. species to be retained and removed, ongoing management). This raised the bigger issue of managing these valuable but unprotected woodland areas on campus and their importance for both teaching and faculty scholarship. Williams supported this position noting these spaces are integral to the identity and innovation of the university.

Garcia Iommi moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Van Dyke.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37am.

Respectfully Submitted by Aaron Van Dyke