MINUTES – April 1, 2015

Members Present: Kraig Steffen (Chair), Carol Ann Davis, Lucrecia Garcia Iommi, Kathryn Phillips, Aaron Van Dyke, Yohuru Williams

Members Absent: James Biardi, Michael Cavanaugh, Toby Svoboda (on sabbatical)

Called to order at 10:08am.

Meeting began with an update on the Campus Sustainability Plan, which is undergoing review by the administration.

The committee moved to a review of the Campus Map provided by University Facilities. Discussion focused on protected spaces on campus. A distinction is made between legally protected spaces on campus versus areas that while not legally protected are important for teaching and scholarship. Prof. Davis inquired if a minimum percentage of campus space is committed to preservation. Prof. Davis also proposed naming protected spaces on campus, which would raise both campus awareness and stewardship. Going forward, the committee requests a GIS (Geographic Information System) version of this map from University Facilities and training on its use. This could make an excellent student-research project with funding through a Lawrence or Hardiman scholarship.

The committee considered ways in which it might leverage partnerships with Bridgeport and other surrounding cities to raise issues of innovation and sustainability.

A subcommittee [Steffen/Biardi] reviewed green spaces abutting Rafferty stadium with University Facilities. The subcommittee reached consensus on vegetation that can be removed. Facilities asked for a list of native vegetation that could be installed around the stadium.

The FCS believes that an advisory committee, composed of former FCS members and other sustainability stakeholders, would be useful going forward. This advisory committee would help maintain institutional memory and capitalize on existing faculty expertise.

Before the end of the year, the curriculum subcommittee plans to meet and brainstorm how sustainability can be infused into the university experience.

Phillips moves to adjourn, which was seconded by Davis.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48am.

Respectfully Submitted by Aaron Van Dyke