Senate Sustainability Committee Meeting 10/16/20 10am-11am  
(next meeting will be November 20th at 10am)  

Present: Michael Black, Richard Milligan, Trisha Kanan, Terry Pechacek, Kim Reimann, Christina Zamon, Jenni Asman, Ming Luo, Ashleigh Cochran, Diana Skowronski, Ramesh Vakamudi, Niklas Vollmer, Ming Lou, Angus Galloway, Carol Hall Grantham (School of Nursing)  

Approval of September minutes.

**Reports/Updates:**  
Field trip for Urban Sustainability Class to Center Parc stadium recycling center and gardens:  
[https://gsu.widencollective.com/c/5qlomiar](https://gsu.widencollective.com/c/5qlomiar)

**Brainstorming:**

**GSU Strengths:**  
Recycling Center  
Surplus  
Undergraduate Teaching  
Downtown Location  
Student Success for low income and first in family to go to college  
Outreach Programs (PublicHealth, Law)  
Diversity (microcosm of society)  
Sustainability is in the strategic plan  
Perimeter Campuses - Green Space availability  
Dining Services (composting, trayless, removing plastics, meatless options)  
Partnership and proximity to other higher ed institutions that are pioneering sustainability (GA Tech, Emory, Agnes Scott College)  
Adaptive Reuse of Buildings and Retrofitting of buildings for better energy efficiency (not demolishing, but repurposing...less embedded carbon)  
Connection to multi-modal transportation  
Lowest parking ratio per students for an urban campus  
Our size (lots of potential with our large student demographic for changing things in our footprint)...ability to make change beyond the university  
Sustainability expertise at GSU  
Location in City in the Forest (lots of tree and natural resources in the city)  
LEDs and low flush toilets standard in renovations and buildings  
Student organizations geared toward sustainability and environmental education (PEACE Club, Green Team)

**GSU Weaknesses/Challenges:**  
Lack of physical space  
Don’t have total control of space around our buildings  
Low funds (not like the large funds at GA Tech or Emory)...hard to put mandate without funds  
Lack of Marketing Sustainability on Perimeter campuses  
No mascot or logo signifiers for sustainability across campuses  
Staffing of Sustainability Initiatives  
Consistency of sustainable initiatives across all campuses  
Lack of plan and encouragement of using multi-modal transportation
Spatial separation without great connectivity between campuses
Less political power in the state than UGA and GA Tech (e.g. not as many alumni representatives in GA Legislature)
Size of campus and large square footage to manage
Lack of high level goals and strategies
Siloed departments and campus organizations (hard to unite everyone or even communicate with everyone)
USG Restrictions (time for ROI, set project cost before project starts even if you find other funding or run into increases in cost)
Board of Regents guidelines prevent going after LEED certifications (would have to have outside funding to pay for the full project in order to go for LEED certification)

GSU Potential Sustainability Changes for this Year:
Strategic Plan
Quarterly things we try to do (campaigns)
Making sustainability a cultural thing
Contracts with sustainability built in (e.g. minimum standards built in to purchases and building contracts)
Targeting grants
Fun sustainability Challenges across the campuses (thinking cardboard sculpture challenge)
Crowdfunding for small substantial projects (https://impact.gsu.edu/: allow for applications for crowdfunding project where you have 30 days)
Increasing connectivity (biking infrastructure)
Shared offices (like classroom space), called Flex Space (signing up like signing up for meeting space that they did at CDC that reduced office space by 25%)

Concrete doable smaller project(s)
Possibilities:
Better biking infrastructure (connectivity)
Solar panels on 25 Park Place or Center Parc Stadium
Install more EV charging stations on campus (for those who just have to drive) ;)
https://recyclemania.org/