Senate Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2018
Centennial Hall, Rm 224

Attending in Person: Lauren Curtright, Dan Bulger, Debra Snell, Jenni Asman, Trisha Kanan, Denise Dimsdale, Dajun Dai, Michael Black, Marolyn Lucy Gentles, Carrie Freeman, Ariday Walkes
Attending via WebEx: Luis Aleman, Ian Campbell, Leila Lawlor, Joanna Wilson

1. Jenni explained ideas (e.g., a Sustainability Coordinator) for replacing the Recycling Coordinator position in Sustainability Initiatives. Those decisions are made by Lenore Musick, Executive Director of Sustainability and Dining, and Associate Vice President, Beth Jones.

2. Transportation – new subcommittee of Lauren Curtright and Lisa Alembik; Dajun will join. Students, faculty, and staff need to be better informed about their transportation options. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society on the Clarkston campus did a transportation survey. There’s a plan to present it to SGA. One member presented this month at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council conference in Macon, GA. This might be good for a GSURC submittal to compete for a sustainability prize next year (deadline for this year has passed). Sustainability Office has been approached by students about grocery shuttles. SGA has been asked to send survey to get student feedback. There is a north one-way bike lane proposed as part of Renew Atlanta’s Bond Program to go in on Piedmont Ave that is currently proposed from Ponce de Leon Avenue to 15th Street with one-way going south on Juniper. This is due to efforts by the Midtown Alliance. This could start connectivity that could lead to further bike infrastructure from the dorms to Publix on North Ave, but it would take input. Dajun did a survey several years ago of about fifty students on where they would like to go by shuttle, which included groceries and parks. This could be brought back out to make a new larger survey. Lucy pointed out parking options and the need for a mapping/color code to help people make more sustainable transportation choices (highlighting environmental education and incentives). Mary McLaughlin from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness could come to a meeting and provide us with student demographics as a way to help make the case to MARTA or other transportation partners. Paying for parking is cheaper on a monthly basis than MARTA. For our achievements for the resolution, we could add GSU adding buildings and capacity of people without adding parking as a plus, as eventually that will likely increase the cost of parking and/or decrease the cost of commuting.

3. The resolution will be the major thing we accomplish this year. It will include a list of accomplishments and things we would like to see done. It will outlast us. We discussed and edited Robert Moore’s wording for a resolution focusing on the UN Global Compact: suggested alternatives based on other campus resolutions to focus on education and to address campus culture as part of the resolution; expressed concern about keeping wording aspirational rather than critical, e.g. ‘in a position to become a leader’; added ‘anthropogenic’ to climate change for scientific accuracy on what we desire to address.
Lucy shared efforts of Staff Council. They had focused on UN goals previously and matched Staff Council goals to GSU strategic plan. Staff Council achievements: 2016-2017 green office campaign, extension of recycling to Perimeter campuses. They are moving on to transportation improvements as a goal. We should combine efforts on this resolution with Staff Council. Lucy will bring our draft to Staff Council when they meet Thursday. We can also engage SGA. Debra Snell is on the Faculty Affairs Committee and suggested care in how we present the resolution to the Executive Committee: being positive and presenting statistical numbers and who is on board.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.