

## Sustainability Committee Meeting

September 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

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### About the Committee

- Sandy Bauman, Sustainability Coordinator, called the meeting to order. New members introduced themselves, and Kim Williams and Sheila Mote were introduced as Co-chairs of the committee. If you're interested in a co-chair position, please let Sandy know. Co-chairs typically serve a two year term.
- About HSC Sustainability: Sandy gave a background about why we have a Sustainability program on campus. In 2010, the students voted to implement a fee to see environmental/sustainability improvements on campus. This is how we fund projects, events, and initiatives.
- Defining Sustainability: Sustainability is all about operating in ways today that enable future generations to have the same (or better) opportunities than we have today. It is the "continued protection of human health and the environment while fostering economic prosperity and societal well-being" (Fiskel et al. 2012). Sustainability has 3 pillars of the environment, society and economy. We are focused primarily on the environmental component of sustainability although the social and economic components are woven throughout our initiatives and all that we do. As stated by the EPA, "everything that we need for our survival and well-being, depends either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment". We hold true to the desire our students expressed back in 2010 when they voted in a fee to fund more environmental improvements on campus. We do partner with other departments and organizations on campus to fully work towards sustainability in all its components. HSC Sustainability's vision is to align with that purpose by transforming our students and employees into people with a sustainability mindset. We desire for every student to be impacted by sustainability while they are here and carry those lessons and passion forward into their careers in health care. Our desire for our employees is to change the culture on campus towards sustainability and that sustainability will play a part in all of our daily operations as well as in our personal lives.
- Celina asked a question about if the committee has thought about moving away from the term "Sustainability" and towards something like "Regenerative Practices". The committee has not discussed this, so to give people time to look into it, we'll discuss it at the November meeting. Please look in to it, and Sandy will send some resources before the November meeting.
- About the Committee: The Sustainability Committee was established in the fall of 2012 (we're in our 9<sup>th</sup> term). Students, staff and faculty represent the campus and community. Our goals are to advance sustainable practices on campus through education, events and activities, outreach, and operations; enhance communication; provide suggestions to and review documents from the Office of Sustainability; and vote on campus initiatives with funds from the Sustainable Campus Fee.
- Committee Accomplishments: Many of the accomplishments from this committee have been: water stations on campus, sponsorship of the Fort Worth Bike Share, Earth Day Event (with 500-700 attendees), UNTHSC Community Garden, Lab Efficiency Action Program (LEAP), subsidizing the transit passes, etc.
- Budget: The budget for the 2020-2021 term is \$25,000. It is funded through the Sustainable Campus Fee (formerly the Environmental Service Fee).
- Bylaws: A copy of the bylaws will be sent to all members.
- Sustainability in Healthcare: Sustainability in healthcare has gained momentum in the last decade or two. Check out [Healthier Hospitals Initiative](#) and [Practice Greenhealth](#).
- Sustainability Resources: The committee meets every 2 months and communication will be done through email, newsletters, and Facebook. Our website is [unthsc.edu/sustainability](http://unthsc.edu/sustainability) and the Facebook page is [Facebook.com/sustainableUNTHSC](https://www.facebook.com/sustainableUNTHSC). Follow us on Instagram under Sustainable\_UNTHSC.

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## Announcements

- Keep Fort Worth Beautiful (KFWB) Litter Stomp on October 17th: We always encourage people to participate in litter cleanup events, and now more than ever it's important due to litter increasing from people spending more time outdoors ([see this recent article](#)). Litter Stomp is on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We will not be organizing a campus group, but if you or a group would like to participate or get a group together, visit their website. They provide cleanup resources and t-shirts and have COVID safety protocols in place. <http://fortworthtexas.gov/litterstomp/>
  - HSC Community Recycling Event – November 12th – We are hosting a recycling event on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3pm in Lot 7 with COVID safety precautions in place. [See event flyer here](#) and pass it around. We need at least 3 volunteers, so if you can help, please let Sandy know.
  - Global Entrepreneurship Week – Nov 16- 20<sup>th</sup> – Last year for GEW Fort Worth, we hosted a lunch and learn on Sustainability in Healthcare. If you have an idea for an event and would like to help plan, please let Sandy know. She is able to help plan if there is someone willing to take the lead.
  - Fort Worth Bike Share – Sustainability financially supports the FWBS by contributing \$5,000 annually. Students get a free annual membership and employees get a \$40 annual membership. There is a station on campus at the library and one close to east campus on Van Cliburn Street. Learn more at <https://fortworth.bcycle.com/>
  - Sustainability Monthly Challenges – Since June we have created monthly challenges to engage the campus in sustainability. Comments and suggestions are welcome! If you are interested in helping with them, let Sandy know.
  - Website Updates – We are working on updating the website. If you have any suggestions for content, let Sandy know.
  - Sustainability in the Campus Labs – LEAP or Lab Efficiency Action Program has awarded \$26,750 had 24 labs participate, replaced 9 ULT freezers (with HEAF funds), and assisted in purchasing 11 freezers. We plan to update the program this fall. We are also working on a freezer monitoring system, getting 2 emergency freezers, writing a Best Practice brochure, implementing a system to make items more available for reuse and exchange on campus, and perhaps creating our own certification for students.
  - HSC Community Garden Updates - The garden is wrapping up its 7th year (anniversary in February), and Celina Esekawu, Community Garden Administrative Associate, gave a background to the garden and update for this year. To date, we have donated over 1500 lbs. and diverted over 500 lbs. of coffee grounds and 10,000 lbs. of food waste from the landfill. If you're interested in gardening or getting more involved, contact Celina.
  - Volunteer Opportunities – Litter Stomp, HSC Community Garden, and Recycling Event (all mentioned above).
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## Subcommittees

- Please let Sandy know what subcommittee(s) you would like to serve on for this term. Participation on a subcommittee is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The subcommittees for this year include the following based on the discussion during the meeting. If you have an idea for another committee, we can always add one:
    - HSC Community Garden – gives input and helps make decisions regarding the community garden on campus
    - LEAP Subcommittee – Lab Efficiency Action Program is an incentive program for labs that encourages them to operate more sustainably through energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, etc.
    - Earth Day Planning – We host an Earth Day Event each year in April. We will most likely be planning another virtual event this year.
    - Education Subcommittee – This subcommittee will focus on educating the HSC community as well as some projects in the larger Fort Worth community such as in K-12 classrooms.
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## Proposal to Subsidize Annual Transit Passes

- E-passes are the annual bus and or train passes that Trinity Metro gives us for a discounted price at 25% off. They are available to all students and employees, and they run monthly or annually from January to December every year. There are 2 types of passes: Local (Fort Worth buses and the TRE (train) from DFW to Fort Worth, and Regional (entire Metroplex). Our students no longer qualify for reduced fare. TexRail (commuter train from the airport to downtown Fort Worth) is now operational and the Dash is also operational.

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- Since 2013, once a year, the Sustainability Committee has voted to subsidize annual passes to 75% off.
  - The proposal was for the committee to subsidize the passes for \$8,000. We discussed having a scaled system where students pay less than employees. Sandy will investigate the possibility with HR. The motion to support this was cast via raising the hand feature and all members approved.
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## **Comments & Suggestions**

- Sereena mentioned getting the MD students more information on the Bike Share.
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## **Housekeeping**

Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 pm. The next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup> at noon (via Zoom).