

ISGI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 5, 2017

CHAIR- CHRISTOPHER MORRIS

VICE CHAIR- GREG HLADIK

SECRETARY- KARABI BEZBORUAH

ATTENDEES

- BILL POOLE
- CHRISTOPHER MORRIS
- DOUGLAS KLAHR
- DUANE DIMOS
- GREG HLADIK
- JAMES GROVER
- KARABI BEZBORUAH
- MEGHNA TARE
- MELANIE SATTLER
- STACY ALAIMO

ABSENTEES

- JOHN HALL

Meeting Minutes

- The changes in the by-laws were approved with the addition of the some language in the Purpose that this board exists to advance the strategic plan of the University, and that instead of leadership team, we simply mention the Institute to avoid confusion with the Board members as team.
- No changes to the meeting minutes.
- Chris gave a background on the established of the University's Sustainability Committee 10 years ago. When the USC was formed, the CRCE (Curriculum, Research, and Community Engagement) drafted a white paper to demonstrate the vision of the USC. The fellowships and travel grants were offered to motivate faculty to incorporate sustainability in their teaching and research. It was initiated to appease the concerns raised by the natural gas drilling on campus.

- What can we do with the fellowship money to generate enthusiasm for the whole UTA community?
- It was recommended by consensus that we should eliminate the fellowship and grants program that we currently offer because there is a lack of engagement and applications.
- Meghna proposed the idea of a Sustainability Accelerator. The Sustainability Accelerator will help clients (cities, nonprofit, local business) to implement their sustainability projects. The focus will be on implementation of adopted sustainability policies, plans, and goals. The assistance we provide can be technical, strategic, or administrative. The idea was supported by everyone. Faculty affiliated with the accelerator can be designated as faculty associates and can be compensated with the fellowships funds that we currently have. Although the amount is not very significant, it will give us a good start.
- Establishing an External Advisory group will also help and with the collaboration and increase the participation from corporations or other entities, and also help bring some funds.
- Jim recommended that we can also offer a Keynote symposium, invite speakers to present on campus – similar to the Mavericks Speaker series, or some form of roundtable discussion. The key is to engage faculty. They will bring the students along.
- Douglas emphasized that the critical point of discussion to advance the minor is –What can the minor do for the students in terms of job prospects?
- Korabi mentioned that students define sustainability in a different way. There needs to be some clarity about sustainability- Environmental, societal impact, sustainability of organization.
- Douglas informed that no one in CAPPa can administer the minor because of lack of resources (financial and personnel). It was discussed that it is favorable to move the sustainability minor to ISGI. Instead of having one dedicated personnel to work to advance the minor, as suggested by Stacy, it was agreed that ISGI can work collaboratively with advisors and CAPPa to advance the minor. The new web person hired by CAPPa can help with the marketing and advertising of the minor.
- Stacy made an argument for there to be a Faculty Director of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Minor. The ESS Minor can be set up with the same sort of staffing structure as Women's and Gender Studies, with a Faculty Director who is compensated with a course release, a staff member, an Advisory Board, and a group of Faculty Associates.
- She also suggested that more faculty be involved in Environmental and Sustainability Studies at UTA, with brown bags, happy hours, lectures, and other events helping to pull more people in. Meghna and Jim mentioned that it has been difficult in the past to engage faculty and staff with brown bags, and on numerous occasions that it has been offered, there is not much attendance. Example was presented about the Water symposium hosted by ISGI every year with only a handful faculty such as Jim coming to attend. There is some level of interaction with faculty such as the Sustainability Minor projects that Meghna and Melanie work on every

semester (Bike Share, emissions inventory.). But there is a potential for more engagement and interaction.

- Jim also mentioned that the faculty who are affiliated and associated with ISGI have to offer some tangible benefits in exchange for Letter of Support and other help.
- Greg also mentioned that it is important that we not only focus on faculty and students, but also staff/employees who are interested in sustainability programs. Educating them will also help in bringing some behaviors change.
- Bill mentioned that the USC committee meetings in the past used to come up with sustainability program ideas and it always fell on OFM to implement them. So he is not very keen on having different committee or workgroups for sustainability initiatives on campus, as far as operations goes.
- Chris requested everyone to-

Explain in a paragraph “What is it you would like to see the Institute accomplish”

Deadline - Dec 31st Email: morris@uta.edu