

FAQs and Proposed Agenda

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”

FAQ's.

Most of these are MY answers to these questions, not those of the Chancellor or Charles Fedullo. I tried to get clarification, but they are so busy it's hard for them to get back to me.

1) What is our Purpose? Where do we want to be at the end?

- a) Recommend what UAF could/should do right away with respect to sustainability
- b) Recommend what UAF could/should do in the next two years on sustainability
- c) Recommend what processes and/or institutions should be created to deal with campus sustainability in the future
- d) Our report is to be “focused on highest level – major issues, questions, and processes. Reports should be brief, clear, concise; and identify consensus (no one fundamentally objects) and majority (not everyone agrees) points.” —Charles Fedullo, in memo to transition committee chairs.

2) How does this committee differ from the Sustainable Campus Task Force

- a) The SCTF is a student club on campus, where this committee is composed of faculty, staff, one student (!), and community members. Our committee is not permanent; we were organized by Interim Chancellor Rogers and there is no reason to assume that we will continue after submitting our final report.

3) How does this group differ from the Master Planning Subcommittee on Sustainability

- a) We are not a permanent committee. However, we will give the Chancellor our recommendations on what institutional arrangement should be developed to address sustainability in the future. Our recommendation might be that everything from now on should be turned over to MPC/sustainability subcommittee.

4) How does this group differ from sustainability-related task forces with the Borough (Climate Change and Recycling) or with the Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC) efforts along these lines?

- a) We have no jurisdiction over any area except UAF property and in fact, I would like to limit our discussion just to this contiguous campus because for the most part, other campuses and TVCC are not represented on our committee. The University would like to work with the community on these issues, share ideas with others, and be able to tie into any new programs like recycling, but UAF will have no authority over property off-campus.

5) If this is “The Sustainability Committee,” we should know how to define sustainability?

We could spend several days debating this, but I would like to propose the following and, if people can live with it, we can move on.

- a) Something is sustainable when it can keep going indefinitely without “running down.”
- b) The following is my own definition, which dates back to the 1970s. Back then we called it basic conservation. It's in a nice, new bottle now, but it's the same fine, old wine: “A sustainable society must... **Eliminate dependence on non-renewable, non-recyclable materials. Stop harvesting renewable resources faster than they can be renewed. Stop producing wastes faster than nature can absorb them. Eliminate production of toxic substances that nature cannot break down quickly.**”
- c) However, this is the ubiquitous and de rigueur definition of sustainability, which echoes the idea of never running out: **Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.** — Definition created in 1987 at the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission).

- 6) What is our schedule?
 - a) First meeting before June 13th
 - b) First draft to Charles Fedullo by July 7
 - c) Final report to Chancellor Rogers by July 14
 - d) Public release of report by July 21
 - e) **Reports will be used to develop themes for convocation September 16.**

**Proposed purpose today is to meet each other,
discuss the scope of work to accomplish, and, if time allows,
agree on how to conduct and/or divide the work.**

PROPOSED AGENDA.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Introduce ourselves: give affiliation and perhaps a statement about why you are interested in this committee
 - i) If any non-members are present, ask them to introduce themselves if they care to do so.
- b) Process Items
 - i) Discuss & agree on purpose for THIS particular meeting and
 - ii) Discuss & agree on an agenda
 - iii) Groundrules: are these acceptable?
 - (1) We are not here to judge the past or any group or individual on campus—we are here to invent the future.
 - (2) We will try to reach consensus on each substantive point, but if there are points where we are unable to do so, we will report the vote.
 - (3) Try to phrase things positively—i.e. not what we oppose, but what we are in favor of.
 - iv) Non-members are welcome at all meetings, notes will be posted online.
 - (1) If non-members are present at this or any other of our meetings, decide how their questions and comments should be handled. Should we restrict public discussion to a specific time and limit testimony to 3 minutes, or allow them to join in when they wish?
- c) Discuss the FAQ's above and any others members might have

2) DISCUSS SCOPE OF WORK

- a) What I was told regarding our mission:
 - Recommend what UAF could/should do right away with respect to sustainability
 - Recommend what UAF could/should do in the next two years on sustainability
 - Recommend what processes and/or institutions should be created to deal with campus sustainability in the future
 - Our report is to be “focused on highest level – major issues, questions, and processes. Reports should be brief, clear, concise; and identify consensus (no one fundamentally objects) and majority (not everyone agrees) points.” —Charles Fedullo, in memo to transition committee chairs.
- b) To get an idea of what could be involved, review class presentation from last April.
 - Do we want to develop a “full plan”? Or should we just start and see how close we can come? If we can't finish a plan, we could make process recommendations on how such a plan should be developed.

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3) AGREE ON HOW TO BEGIN.

- a) Ten key topics that most schools are addressing in their sustainability plans are listed below. In a final plan, two subcategories should be covered for each topic:
- i) current situation (how much energy is used, how much CO2 released, that sort of thing);
 - ii) plan for the future.
- b) I propose that we start by reading the NRM430 students' composite plan (I dropped each paper into one document, so the style varies from one section to the next).

Split into subgroups and have each subgroup review what other campuses have done in each area.

Then write recommendations on... data we need to begin collecting, changes we can institute right away, and outline a process for developing a longer term, full scale plan.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Energy:2) Transportation3) Built Environment4) Procurement5) Waste Management6) Food Service7) Landscape8) Water9) Integrating Sustainability across the Curriculum10) Social Sustainability (equity, transparency in decision making, etc).11) Other? _____ |
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4) SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND TOPIC(S) FOR THAT DISCUSSION