

Educational Planning Committee
February 24, 2025
2:00-4:00 p.m.
AC 217 & Zoom

Present: Holley Shafer, Brier Welch, Mary Kesler, Kathleen Antokhin, Meg Pasquel, Hector Saez, Logan Wood, Alina Varona

Absent: Emily Fox, Eresa Puch, Julian Solis

Review Agenda – Agenda approved

Minutes from last meeting 2/10/25: approved

Discussion with Klaus Christiansen:

Strategic Priority: Make COM a Catalyst for Community Change

Five-Year Goal: Reduce environmental impact institutionally and locally via collaborative efforts to address transportation, housing, waste, and energy generation/consumption issues which disproportionately impact underserved communities in Marin.

COM Target: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-25% emissions by 2030

- Chancellor's Office goal is to be net-zero emissions by 2035
- Increase in energy independence-reduce reliance on utility providers
- B & D Consultants performed a baseline analysis – so we could use that information as starting point
- Discussion of how to measure progress
 - Trash is weighed: record measurement now, then pick a date and measure again
- Key strategies:
 - Install pool covers (estimated \$500k savings/year in energy costs)
 - Implement unified waste reduction/recycling program across campuses
 - Explore microgrid/"energy islanding" capabilities (COM selected as 1 of 5 institutions for state analysis)
 - Conduct building-specific energy audits to identify reduction opportunities
 - Suggested by EPC: Waste reduction training, education, participation, incentivization for students, employees
- Challenges:
 - Long lead times for construction/approvals (1-1.5 years typical)
 - Need dedicated sustainability coordinator to collect/analyze data
 - Behavior change is required - education/incentives needed
 - Currently 75% of our recycling is contaminated by waste

Ideas for Integrating Sustainability with Academics

- Opportunities identified to tie initiatives to curriculum:
 - Waste audits as student projects
 - Energy use analysis in STEM labs
 - Community partnerships in architecture/design courses
 - Need better communication channels between facilities/academics

Facilities Challenges

- HVAC inconsistencies between buildings causing comfort/efficiency issues
- Lack of clarity on responsibilities for event setup (e.g. tents)
- Desire for more granular energy use data to inform scheduling

Implementation Team Composition Discussion

- Executive team: Jonathan and the cabinet would like an administrator to be ultimately accountable for each implementation team
- Aim to engage new voices including:
 - Part-time faculty for fresh perspectives
 - New full-time faculty eager to get involved
 - Cross-functional representation (e.g. counseling, career ed)
 - Specific suggestions made for each goal area (see Next Steps)
 - Consider incentives like professional development credit to encourage participation

Next steps for implementation teams:

- Put the call out to CSEA and Faculty
- Ask Dana Emerson to put a call out at the Program Coordinators' meeting
- Ask Gina Cullen for faculty suggestions

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting: Monday, March 10th