



Portland Community College 2021 Sustainability Leadership Council Retreat Notes

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021; 1:00-4:00pm

Location: virtual, zoom

[Meeting Powerpoint](#)

In Attendance

- Rachel Zarfaz, Briar Schoon, Stephania Fregosi, Trina Sound, Larry Osborn, Mark Mitsui, Jade Menchaca, Amber Fultz, Robert Richards, Kim Fox-Moran, Jean Atkinson, Carlo DeMarco, Lynn Montoya Quinn, Mak Porotesano, Kim Smith, Lutgarda Cowan, Peter Ritson, Dieterich Steinmetz, Kendi Esary, Gina Valencia, Davida Jordan, Krista Phillips

Land Acknowledgement - Briar

President Mitsui welcome remarks - Mark

- All the work we're doing around sustainability and climate justice is very appreciated.
- America Is All In (formerly We Are All In) update: US will be well represented at COP26. MM serves on the Second Nature Climate Leadership circle, which is mobilizing networks with the Biden administration to address more climate justice and action. They have been working hard to recruit other universities and colleges. Mak will be attending and representing Pacific Climate Warriors and PCC at COP26, which starts next week. It would be great to facilitate getting more students involved. MM can see where we can get students plugged in (ex. Zoom calls)
- Second Nature update: MM serves on council. PCC participated in Climate Action Pursuit. There was agreement to create additional impotence for community colleges to engage through more funding and resources.
- Build Back Better Bill update: Triple bottom line grant for more economic mobility for all. Partnering with PSU and Greater Portland Inc (GPI).
- MM thinks this is great timing for all this positive moment. In addition, we want to keep ensuring PCC is aligning its sustainability teachings and action.

Staff Updates & Reorg - Briar

- Elaine Cole is with the district Sustainability office now.
- Anne Lesenne left. David Sandrock will be leading the Tree Campus USA committee. Landscape Technology Chair, Jenn Peters and a small group of staff volunteers are helping with the apiary. LAT is hiring to replace Anne. Elaine Cole is coordinating the Bee Campus USA committee and recertification efforts. Let her know if you want to join the committee.
- Amelia Palmer-Hansen has left. We are hiring for a new [SEM Associate paid Intern position](#)
- SPARC updates - Heidi is stepping down. They are looking to do a co-chair model for her replacement. If you're interested, please reach out to Briar or Heidi.

- Learning gardens are now under Academic Support Services. Catherine Horwitz is the new AmeriCorps Food Systems Outreach Coordinator based at the Sylvania Environmental Center. She'll be working on food insecurity issues. Please help promote her upcoming [Meals Matter Virtual Cooking Workshops](#), starting the week of Oct. 27th
- Student activities reorganized under student life and engagement. Right now, they are looking at the functions of student leadership and determining what will stay and what will go. One student on staff right now. Vision, mission, etc. needs to be determined. Highly focused on sustainability, climate justice and food pantry support. Ecosocial justice grants will continue. Not open now, but will be in spring for a shorter turnaround. Will hire students by summer. [Food pantries are open now Tues, Wed and Thurs](#). 20% back on campus, so not a lot of traffic. Will post 8 positions in winter term (20 hours/wk). Also, clubs can recharter if they were chartered last year.

[Climate Action Plan](#) - Stephaniea

- Reminder/review of CAP outcomes - share website (10 min)
 - Mission vision
 - Addition of Climate justice and resiliency as foci to plan
 - New goal
- Projects that have moved forward since CAP - team (15 min)
 - Scope I & II - Elaine
 - PGE Drive Change Grant submission
 - Electric Vehicle Transition Policy
 - Energy Policy Revisions
 - Energy Conservation Revolving Fund Guideline and Application
 - New PV array at OMIC
 - Two different renewable energy commitments through PGE/Green Tariff and Community Solar that we expect to come online over the next 18 mos
 - Scope III - Jade/Rachel
 - Providing sustainability recommendations for Purchasing Manual Update
 - Standardize the use of the PCC Sustainability Guidelines for Purchasing
 - Expanding electric vehicle infrastructure with PGE grant application
 - Providing waste reduction and recycling education with targeted outreach for students, staff and faculty (updating information on website)
 - Education & Outreach - Briar
 - CBL projects to be used as model or standard for other projects (ex. Library guide (Roberta) ([link](#)); look over guides and taking feedback from group; focus on solutions
 - Student research guide: <https://guides.pcc.edu/climatechange> and two guides for faculty: <https://guides.pcc.edu/ClimateChangeCurriculum> and <https://guides.pcc.edu/TeachingClimateChange>
 - New Sustainability Education Hub model: how do we establish a one college model for our work? Conversations with college leadership right now.
 - Student leadership

- SPARC needs to reform its leadership and be connected to CAP initiatives as it sees fit.
- How do we lower barriers to implement sustainability curriculum?
 - An answer to this question could be tied to the Hub model where Hub staff facilitate resources for implementation. This not only includes curriculum and resources (like Roberta's work) but also
 - course/activity integration workshops (paid) similar and hopefully to what SPARC has done.
 - Grant writing support to fund course and activity development. Peter will support TIIP grant writing for the ESR 140 course skeleton to be built so there could be an easier workload for instructors to teach this class. ESR also wants to have other departments like Sociality and Poli Sci faculty teach this and again with the Hub model, that staff could do that outreach rather than add another task to ESR SAC.
- Resiliency - Steph
- Strategic Plan CAP projects - Briar
 - Two projects submitted (Enterprise and Workforce); Mostly connected to Scope 1&2 and a little Scope 3
 - Funding update coming soon
- Reminder of roles and next steps, equity guide for prioritizing Briar
- Gina Valencia: How are we aligning CAP and SP? - Briar was on the SP committee and worked with Sarah Rose Evans closely to ensure coordination. MM and others see the CAP and SP very closely tied and in support of one another.
- Additional project- (Peter) SY composting toilet for track and LG. Can be both a model and education tool for talking about resilience especially with earthquake disruptions. This project has a well developed plan in coordination with FMS and work is currently continuing through CBL with engineering students and when ESJ becomes available, will apply to fund construction.

STARS - Rachel

- Our last report was submitted March 5th, 2021 and covered the reporting period of FY 2019. The rating is good for three years. We received 63.12%, which earned us a Silver rating, only 2 credits shy of gold. According to the Sustainable Campus Index, PCC has had the highest STARS report ranking among 2-year institutions based in the United States for the past three years. PCC to be recognized in the Sustainable Campus Index again in the fall.
- Academics: Received 62% of credits
 - Highlights:
 - 131/3600 sustainability focused courses and 230/3600 sustainability inclusive courses
 - New Immersive Experience Credit
 - Two Sustainability Focus Awards: Sustainability and Earth Sciences
 - Improvements:
 - Better tracking of degree level outcomes or career pathways
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs

- Innovation credit possible for a climate justice course
- Engagement: Received 68% of credits
 - Highlights:
 - ASPCC Positions
 - SEM and ASPCC Campaigns
 - Improvements:
 - Formalize green office
 - Offer regular internal opportunities for sustainability professional development for staff
- Operations: Received 56% of credits
 - Highlights:
 - Sustainable dining options
 - Rock Creek Environmental Studies Center being used for lab classes
 - Greenhouse inventory, green building operations and maintenance, clean and renewable energy and landscaping
 - Improvements:
 - Opportunity for pursuing more green building certification activities
 - Better data collection and tracking
 - Food and beverage purchasing
 - Water infrastructure repair and investment
- Planning and Administration: Received 56% of credits
 - Highlights:
 - Plans with measurable sustainability objectives (PCC's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 and PCC's 2021 Climate Action Plan)
 - Climate Campus Assessment (2018)
 - Improvements:
 - Monitor wage gap at the college
 - Support better data integration (e.g. between financial aid and graduation rates)
 - Work with foundation office on divestment and form divestment committee
- Innovation: Received all credits
 - Highlights:
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the CAP RFP
 - Climate Justice in the CAP
 - Students involvement in the pouring rights contract renewal

AASHE Highlights - group share - Briar

- Highlights and key takeaways (100 PCC folks due to EcoSocial Justice grant)
 - "Is Your Carbon Footprint BS?" was a good session
 - Loving the shift to wellness
 - Great keynotes
 - Resilience continues to be a main topic of discussion
 - Student ambassador program sounds like a neat idea
- If you need help getting registered to watch the session content, let Briar now. The sessions will be available through Dec. 31st, 2021.

WOHESC - Briar

- Next location is South Seattle College. If you're interested in attending, contact Briar. Also, you have until this Friday to submit a proposal. It's not too involved. Let Briar if you need help submitting a proposal.

Council Member Updates

- Gina: The Facilities Plan is wrapping up by the end of the year through online outreach. This plan will be used for the next 10-20 years. Asking for the PCC community to provide [feedback](#) on draft concepts by Friday, 10/22/21. Need any more information related to this, reach out to Gina
- Davida: Union Book Club happening! Combines sustainability and labor issues (ex. Green New Deal, clean jobs). They are reading Striking for Sunshine. Davida has recorded the book as well, if you just want to listen. A digital copy of each reading will be sent to you when you register. Register here: tinyurl.com/FFAPdiscuss.
- Kendi: This past Ecosocial Justice Grant round, students funded more than 14 Open Education Resource projects.

EcoChallenge Progress Update - Jade

- 50 members
- Challenged COC and we're winning!!!
- PCC (including all its groups) is 8th in the world!

Reminder of subcommittee roles and expectations - Briar

- Future 1-2 hr meetings
- Main group purpose is to decide about needed resources, updates and to strategize
- Subcommittee group's purpose is to advance the work of CAP scopes/focus areas