I. Background

In Spring 2017 Vice President of Administration & Finance Joyce Lopes and Provost Alex Enyedi chartered the HSU Advisory Committee on Sustainability (HACS) to engage stakeholders and to make recommendations to the Administration for further implementing sustainability into the core focus areas of campus operations, academics, infrastructure and engagement. Since its inception in the fall of 2017, the committee’s student, faculty and staff members have continued to meet once a month, with additional sub-committee work, to discuss and take action on the tasks set forth in the committee’s charge.

The purpose of this annual report is to update the President, the Provost and the VP of Administration & Finance on committee accomplishments in the 2018-19 academic year, to specify goals and activities for the 2019-20 academic year, and to summarize specific recommendations to further sustainability into the core focus areas of the campus.

II. Accomplishments

HACS completed the following activities since its first meeting in August of 2018:

1. Conducted campus outreach and compiled an inventory of existing goals related to sustainability. Sources for these goals included but were not limited to CSU policies, the HSU Climate Action Plan, the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, Parking & Commuter Services Business Plan, Dining Services, Associated Students, Sponsored Programs, and others.

2. Drafted an initial 2040 Vision for Sustainability, identifying long-term change (as desired by committee members) in operations, academics & research, engagement and community building.

3. Conducted an initial gap analysis between existing goals and the 2040 Vision.

4. Developed a public-facing process to track and report on existing campus sustainability goals. This sustainability reporting dashboard website is expected to launch in the fall of 2019.

5. Wrote a letter to the HSU President Selection Committee requesting that they prioritize a commitment to sustainability in their evaluation of candidates.

6. Provided consultation to a graduate student (Environment & Community) on her thesis proposal. With guidance from the committee, the student will conduct her research on alternative transportation options and behaviors at HSU.

III. Goals and Activities for AY 2019-20

HACS proposes to take the following actions in the coming academic year:
1. Complete and launch a public sustainability reporting dashboard, to be hosted on the HSU Sustainability website.
2. Support an education and outreach campaign to engage the campus community in supporting campus sustainability goals.
3. Give a presentation to the University Senate.
4. Introduce the new HSU President and his cabinet to the committee, campus sustainability goals, and efforts underway on campus and in the community.
5. Further seek synergies with other established groups on campus and in the community engaged in sustainability and support their efforts.
6. Continue to receive reports from the Office of Sustainability, faculty, and students on sustainability-focused initiatives, policies and programs, and provide advice and support to further the integration of sustainability into the core focus areas of campus.
7. Hold a minimum of one informational meeting per semester with the Provost and the VP of Administration & Finance.

IV. Recommendation

While other CSU’s have crafted and broadcast their own unique definitions of sustainability, HSU has yet to formalize its own definition of this critical concept. Last year the committee developed a definition of sustainability for HSU: **Sustainability is the recognition that humanity is a part of the natural world, not separate from it, and that healthy social and economic systems depend on the resilience of ecological systems.** The committee recommends that Provost Enyedi and VP Dawes champion HSU’s adoption and publicity of this definition, and to actively engage with the committee in the future.

V. Conclusion

The committee is charged with making recommendations on specific actions that the VP for Admin Affairs and the Provost can take to further the implementation of sustainability on campus. The committee is also available to receive requests if/when the administration has specific items the committee can support. We look forward to engaging with the administration in the coming year to forward HSU’s sustainability goals and to reach towards carbon neutrality and resilience to climate change.

Respectfully submitted on June 6, 2019 by:

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