

From: Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS)
To: Tom Hansford, Chair, Academic Senate, Merced Division
Subject: FACS engagement with the Senate
Date: 09 October 2019

Attachments:

Proposal to EVC for Phase
May 20, 2019, memo from Chair Schnier

Dear Chair Hansford,

I am writing to invite the Senate to comment on potential structures for Phase 2 of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS), per correspondence of 20 May 2019 from then Senate Chair Schnier.

The charge of the current instance of FACS included to “establish the scope of a further phase of the committee which should continue as a mechanism for encouraging long-term development of integrated Sustainability planning across the campus, in association with appropriate partners” by the end of Fall semester 2019. As one potential partner, we hope the Senate can comment on the proposed, and its preferred, mode of engagement.

The current proposal for FACS Phase 2, which has been submitted to EVC & Provost Camfield for determination of next steps, is attached. FACS proposes an approach to engagement with the Senate as a starting point for discussion. On page 2 of the package, and in Figures 1 & 2, you will find the draft proposed structure, which has two components:

[1] including an ex officio member or consultant from each of several Senate committees such as Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, Committee on Research, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, on FACS, and

[2] using the existing formal consultative process.

This structure is intended to facilitate informed discussion on FACS yet to reserve that formal opinions and decisions be requested and delivered through existing structures. Alternatives such as #2 only, or full membership of Senate committee members on FACS, or creation of a new senate committee on sustainability, and probably other options, are all possibilities (though we consider them less practical), and we welcome your suggestions and recommendations, acknowledging that this is, currently, a committee established by and advisory to the Provost.

As the next phase of FACS is meant to start by the end of the current semester, we would be grateful if feedback from the Senate could be provided before Thanksgiving.

With best regards,



Michael N Dawson
Chair, & on behalf of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability



SENATE CHAIR
Kurt Schnier
senatechair@ucmerced.edu

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MAY 20, 2019

MICHAEL DAWSON, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, FACULY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY

RE: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CAMPUS COORDINATION OF SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

Dear Mike:

On behalf of Divisional Council, I write to convey Divisional Council's encouragement that the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) pursue a joint Senate-administration structure as part of the FACS's efforts to facilitate the integration and coordination of sustainability activities on campus. Divisional Council makes this recommendation given the priority the campus places on sustainability, including as relates to teaching and research, and more generally the importance of addressing our urgent climate and environmental challenges.

Based on the information you shared, Divisional Council believes that the FACS is considering such an approach, and hopes this letter will add weight to its consideration. We would be happy to discuss potential structures with you in the coming academic year.

Sincerely,

Kurt Schnier
Chair, Divisional Council

CC: Divisional Council
Roger Bales, Professor
Senate Office

Encl (1)

To: EVC and Provost Gregg Camfield
From: FACS
Subject: Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability Phase 2 Recommendation

In November 2018, the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) was established with the following charge: [1] to gather information on faculty interests, advise the Provost on priorities for programming, identify opportunities for philanthropy, increasing communication on and about Sustainability, and [2] establish the scope of a further Phase of the committee which should continue as a mechanism for encouraging long-term development of integrated Sustainability planning across the campus, in association with appropriate partners.

In the attachments, we summarize the achievements of the first part of the charge during the inaugural year of the FACS, and make our recommendation on the scope of the next Phase, which is provided in the first attachment. Going forward, we emphasize the importance of integrating sustainability with academic and research planning and the central role for FACS in helping align campus priorities and activities.

We request your action on the following three matters:

- establishment of Phase 2 of FACS, per recommendations, before the end of Fall semester
- provision of short-term funding for events, seed grants, sustainability video vignettes, and an Earth Day speaker for 2020, during a ‘bridge year’, and
- prioritization of development/fund-raising to support the goals of Phase 2 of FACS: an Endowed Chair for Sustainability, a Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, continuing support for seminars and events including a symposium series, a Graduate Fellowship Program, and Short-term Fellowships for Visiting Researchers.

The shared vision and community that has grown up around the sustainability initiative is compelling. Phase 2 of the FACS, coupled with its integration into a coordinating committee with students and staff provides an extant vehicle for *meeting and extending* the goals of the University of California system and our own campus, as stated, for example, in recent communications on the “climate emergency declaration” and our “2020 Long Range Development Plan” (LRDP):

“In signing the declaration, UC leaders agreed to a three-point plan that includes increasing action-oriented climate research; expanding education and outreach on environmental and sustainability issues; and achieving climate neutrality” <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/university-california-declares-climate-emergency>

“Sustainability continues to be at the forefront of the university’s expansion efforts, and this LRDP emphasizes energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction and minimization, on-site stormwater management, and reduced dependence on automobiles.” Interim Chancellor Brostrom

Importantly, the FACS is adroitly positioned to strengthen the representation of *academics* (research and teaching) in the campus vision, thus meeting system-wide commitments, through integrated planning: enhancing student success, campus rankings, and leveraging opportunities to accelerate R1 status.

As recommendations for Phase 2 include ex officio representation of several Senate committees on FACS, we have also submitted a copy of this proposal to Chair Hansford for comment.

As populating Phase 2 FACS will require nominations and consultation, we hope to receive your comments on the proposed structure and initiatives by Monday 27th October.

ATTACHMENTS:

Recommendation for Phase II of FACS:

We propose a **committee structure for FACS Phase 2** that is modestly revised (changes in blue) from Phase 1 to reflect its longer-term integration into campus activities, as follows:

- faculty chair [nominated; selected by the Provost]
- two faculty representatives from each school [nominated; selected by the Chair and Provost]
- one ex officio member from each of the following Senate bodies: Committee on Research, Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, CAPRA
- department, General Education and Graduate Group chairs and ORU directors in sustainability [{a} ex officio or {b} consultants]
- Director of Sustainability [ex officio]
- administrative consultants [e.g. Executive Director of Space Strategies and Real Estate; Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget]

The committee will again operate by consensus.

In addition, we recommend the **establishment of a campus-wide coordinating committee** that draws two ex officio members from each of the FACS (Chair, +1), Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (Director of Sustainability, +1), and ASUCM (President, Commissioner of Sustainability). The charge of this committee is to communicate and coordinate sustainability initiatives happening within each of the three constituencies and, where relevant, to raise these recommendations for campus-wide action and support.

These recommendations result in an integrated structure (Figure 1) that facilitates activities by constituents within, and across all constituencies of, UC Merced. The anticipated communication and consultation structure is outlined in Figure 2.

The **draft charge** for Phase 2 of FACS is:

To encourage long-term development of an integrated Sustainability Initiative across campus, in association with appropriate partners, by:

- developing (aspirational) sustainability goals for 2025 and 2030
- identifying and recommending actions that will attain 2025 and 2030 goals
- establishing annual initiatives and objectives in consultation with the EVC and Provost
- identifying priorities for research and teaching within the campus sustainability vision, thus enhancing student success and leveraging opportunities to accelerate achievement of R1 status
- advising on academic and research activities that improve campus' sustainability standing (e.g. AASHE rankings)
- evaluating strategies for further long-term development of integrated Sustainability planning across the campus, in association with appropriate partners
- developing grant proposals to support growth of sustainability education and research
- establishing and enacting objective and inclusive procedures to distribute short-term funding for events, seed grants, communications, and Earth Day speaker, and
- establishing and enacting objective and inclusive procedures to (a) recruit/nominate, recommend, and help review an Endowed Chair for Sustainability, (b) search for and recruit Postdoctoral Sustainability Fellows annually, (c) distribute additional funding to enhance

seminars and events including a symposium series in sustainability, (d) evaluate and recommend applications for Graduate Fellowships in Sustainability and for Short-term Fellowships for Visiting Researchers.

- coordinating with system-wide committees on sustainability to achieve UC goals
- recommending mechanisms for Phase 3 of the Sustainability Initiative

The **duration** for Phase 2 of FACS would be 5 years, terms of school representatives would be 2 years and start staggered (i.e. 1 per school being elected for only 1 year of service in Yr1 [ideally current members serving an additional year]).

Successful execution of Phase 2 will require teaching release and stipend for the Chair, and staff support for the committee. Other models could include establishing a Faculty Director for the Sustainability initiative or a Vice-Provost for Sustainability for the campus, and having this person organize and support the committee along with the Office of Sustainability.



Figure 1. Recommended organizational structure supporting Phase 2 of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS), including potential addition of ex officio Senate committee representation and formal integration of ASUCM, CACS, and FACS leadership in the form of a new committee for coordinating and elevating sustainability efforts campus-wide.

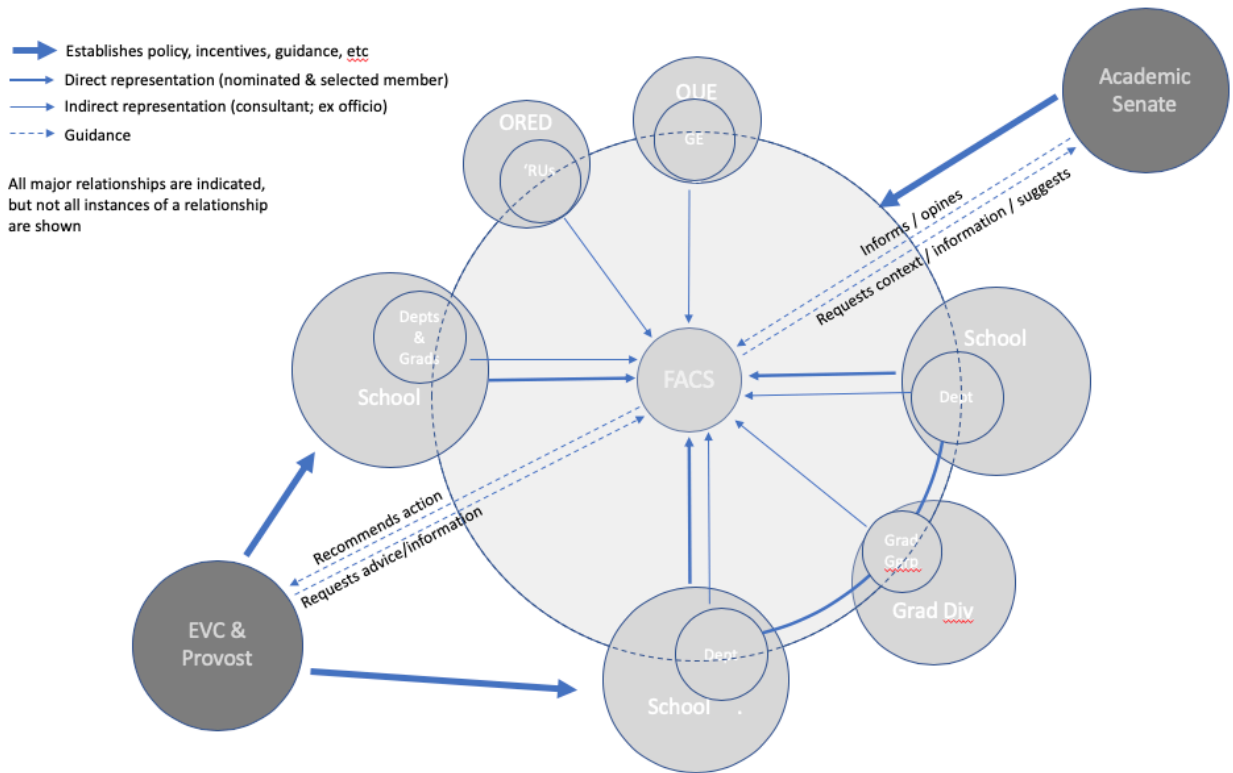


Figure 2. Operational relationship of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) to academic and senate units across campus. The basic workflow may be conceived as priority-setting through iterative communication between the EVC and Provost and the FACS in consultation with the Academic Senate; perspectives and advice on any issues are solicited from the faculty via a network of direct and indirect representation through nominated school members and ex officio / consultant positions for chairs/directors of departments, general education, graduate groups, research units, and undergraduate majors that have substantive activity in sustainability education and/or research. The largest grey circle is the Division. Note that, to avoid overcomplicating the image, only a subset of formal relationships among extant bodies are represented.

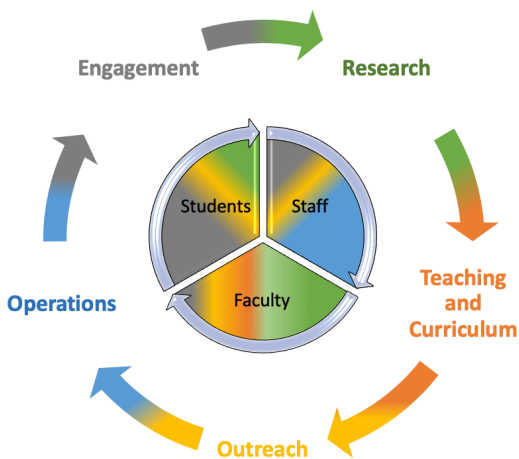


Figure 3. By recognizing the multiple activities engaged in by the university, their intersections, and the roles played by campus constituencies, we can conceive of focused opportunities for strengthening the university's core missions in education, research, and service that also enable sustainability, a campus-wide. By linking these constituencies through the sustainability initiative we use available spaces (especially SRE and ACS buildings and the new academic quad) to enhance integrated programming across campus as a 'collaboratory' of kinds.

Achievements of FACS, November 2018 to current:

(attachment) Development recommendations - 16 Nov 2018

(attachment) SMART Initiative - 06 Feb 2019

(attachment) Funding proposal to Provost's Office - 01 March 2019

(attachment) Working group space proposal - 25 March 2019

(attachment) 2A lobby RFQ - 30 April 2019 and October 2019

Hired communications intern – July 2019

Recommendation for FACS Phase 2 – October 2019 (this document)

Establishment of FACS website and communications strategy – ongoing (target November 2019)

Long-term Development recommendations

1. Endowed Chair for Sustainability - A rotating endowed chair would provide means for a faculty leadership position to partner the Director of Sustainability to build curricular, co-curricular, and research opportunities in sustainability on, around, and off campus. The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability has substantial administrative staff involvement, but has not enjoyed similar levels of faculty engagement. Establishing a parallel or combined initiative would greatly benefit development and recognition of UC Merced for excellence in sustainability (e.g. our path to Platinum [AASHE](#) status).

~2. Postdoctoral Fellowship Program - Two to five interdisciplinary fellowships per year, each for 2 years, co-advised by two faculty spanning the breadth of sustainability disciplines (SOE, SNS, SSHA, ...), receiving training and mentoring in interdisciplinary sustainability research, education and fostering diversity in sustainability.

~2. Sustainability seminar / events / symposium series - Funding to bring speakers to campus on sustainability themes, for series housed primarily in Building 2A. The program would likely dovetail with and enhance departmental and/or graduate group seminars to avoid meeting overload; an elevated profile public event would be scheduled each year for Earth Day (April 22 of every year). -- co-host & amplify existing efforts ... facilitating what is already going on, providing \$\$ to enhance activities.

4. Graduate Fellowship / Scholarship - A suite of semester- or year-long awards to support research, research and teaching, or outreach by current graduate students in good standing with educational, research and career objectives aimed at sustainability. -- co-hort of multi-disciplinary grads who identify w/ sustainability & come together around seminars, monthly 'coffee' other events. Leverage CCMB MESA existing initiatives for grad development.

5. Short-term fellowships for visiting researchers - Paralleling the postdoctoral fellowships, small travel grant/stipend program to support visiting (non-postdoctoral) researchers to could raise the profile of the initiative, and particularly aid scholars from developing countries and under-represented groups.

From the Senate Chair's January report: "EVC/Provost Camfield has invited the Senate to propose institutional-level initiatives that will shape investment in the next generation of faculty and research at UC Merced and accelerate our progress on the path to R1 status. Due to budget development considerations at the UC Office of the President, the timeline for input is short; recommendations are due to me by Wednesday, February 6. If you are interested in contributing, please reach out to your School Executive Committee representative or committee chair for details."

=_=_=_=_=

On Feb 6, 2019, at 8:54 AM, Michael Dawson <mdawson@ucmerced.edu> wrote:

Dear Erik, Kurt:

I'm responding to the call, in the January Senate Chair's report, for institutional-level initiatives that will shape investment in the next generation of faculty and research at UC Merced and accelerate our progress on the path to R1 status.

Sustainability Research Initiative

In Fall 2019, the new research and teaching building 2A which is slated to become a hub for sustainability research and education, and also home to the Office of Sustainability, will open. This provides an unprecedented and rare opportunity for our campus to leverage a broadly adopted core concept to build—using a hub-and-spokes model—more meaningful, integrated, research experiences at all levels throughout campus. Sustainability is a critical interest shared by many across campus for which a new Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS; established November 2018) is exploring innovative models to advance egalitarian, inclusive, multidisciplinary initiatives. The disciplinary breadth of the initiative and opportunities for development already identified (see below) can buoy up research across campus and hit many of the target correlates of research activity used to calculate R1 research indices. Thus, the Sustainability Initiative is poised, with timely investment and coordination, to rapidly become not only an achievement of departments and ORUs within UC Merced, but also a hallmark of research success at UC Merced. This would embellish our campus's already acknowledged national leadership in sustainable infrastructure with high profile forward-looking leadership in sustainability research. This combination would establish a powerful presence on the national and international stage, allowing us to attract the very best researchers and students, which would have self-multiplying effects.

Importantly, these experiences would permeate campus, providing effective context for students as members of their communities outside campus, as national and global citizens, and for a substantial proportion it would come to define their future careers inside or outside academia. The initiative would indirectly foster related initiatives on campus—Living Learning Communities such as Carson House, General Education courses in sustainability, experiential co-curricular activities such as the campus garden and waste management and communications, research experiences for undergraduates, the campus as a 'living laboratory' for sustainability

research—thus imbuing the Sustainability Research Initiative also with societal meaning and impact beyond the immediate reach of its nonetheless outstanding research accomplishments. This related core mission of campus has a demonstrated positive impact on recruiting diverse leading research faculty.

Development opportunities already identified by FACS:

1. Endowed Chair for Sustainability - A rotating endowed chair would recognize existing (or help recruit) outstanding research talent in sustainability, and provide a faculty leadership position to promote research opportunities in sustainability thus building campus capacity and recognition.
2. Postdoctoral Fellowship Program - ~5 multi-disciplinary fellowships per year, each for 2 years, co-advised by two faculty spanning the breadth of sustainability disciplines (SOE, SNS, SSHA, ...), receiving training and mentoring in interdisciplinary sustainability research, education and fostering diversity in sustainability. In addition to building research capacity rapidly, the annual call for postdoctoral applicants also provides an annual opportunity to advertise internationally that UC Merced is taking a leadership role in sustainability research.
3. Graduate Fellowship / Scholarship - A suite of semester- or year-long awards to support research by current, and recruitment of new, graduate students. Although a slower return on research output, graduate students are among the most productive research members of the university.
4. Short-term fellowships for visiting researchers - Paralleling the postdoctoral fellowships, small travel grant/stipend program to support visiting (non-postdoctoral) researchers would raise the profile of the initiative, and particularly aid scholars from developing countries and under-represented groups, again rapidly increasing research productivity.

Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability recommendation for Sustainability Initiative short-term funding

Short-term discretionary campus funding is needed for activities in 2019 to build community, goodwill, infrastructure, and visibility around the Sustainability Initiative. These events will provide opportunities to highlight campus commitment to sustainability to the campus community and also, importantly, to members of the regional community including potential donors to help build long-term funding. The following list of short-term priorities is recommended by the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability.

(1) Support for communications intern in Sustainability Office

Brief description: Generate webpages for FACS and sustainability faculty (highlighting sustainability research & teaching) on the Sustainability Office website; social media for 'sustainability' tagged events already planned by others on/off campus, e.g. list below.

Potential impacts / outcomes: A new online presence synthesizing sustainability efforts across campus and potential social media outlets will greatly increase the visibility of the sustainability initiative across campus community and the region and provide a showcase for activities, news, and projects

Budget: ~\$13/hr for up to 8 hours per week (usually fewer hours). March 2019-June 2020.
Total: \$5200.

(2) Building 2A move-in event

Brief description: High profile event providing an official 'launch-pad' to showcase the Sustainability Initiative, new infrastructure and programming. Afternoon research seminar series with UCM faculty, students, staff; evening event with high profile guest speaker. Events in the sustainability building, quad, and around campus: art exhibit, campus tours, performance, etc. Tours of building 2A, other sustainability 'spokes' across campus, vernal pools, facilities, campus garden, etc. Highlights partnerships with city, county, national park, non-government partners in the region.

Potential impacts / outcomes: Brings in donors, advisory board, general public, local dignitaries, press. Coalesces and launches new initiative on campus for campus community. Establishes philanthropic drive for 2020.

Budget: Courtesy parking for all guests, public (\$1000)
Honorarium for speaker ≤ \$5k
Accommodation, travel for speaker ≤ \$2k
Evening dinner = \$300 (6 people including speaker, night before event)
Refreshments for afternoon research seminar series = \$500
Evening donors dinner = \$??
Total: \$10k–20k

(3) Small grants program

Brief description: A small grants program modeled after Office of Campus Climate's *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Grants* program ([link](#)).

Potential impacts / outcomes: Generates substantial interest and ideas from among faculty and partners (e.g. staff, students, groups), provides an opportunity to advertise the initiative to the campus community, and increases capacity for campus-wide sustainability through generation of activities that seed future grant proposals, on-campus initiatives, events (e.g. #2 above), and partnerships. Thus, helps establish, develop, and advance a culture of sustainability—e.g., community engagement, education, research—on campus in the same way that *DEI* grants have advanced the campus' culture supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Budget: Four (or more) grants not exceeding \$5k per award (or less) for the first year. *Total: \$20k.*

(4) Sustainability video vignettes

Brief description: A video précis of sustainability achievements and goals for campus.

Potential impacts / outcomes: Publicly facing raises profile of sustainability and advances our brand with potential donors, board members, and regional partners; internally builds community, provides captivating content for advisory committee webpages, advances mission.

Budget: Scripting, filming, and post-production. *Total: \$10k*

(5) Earth Day/Month speaker - 2020

Brief description: Campus & Public facing presentations with a high profile guest and supported by UC Merced research expertise. Satellite events organized with Office of Sustainability, Carson House Living Learning Community, and other on-campus partners. 2020 as segue to longer-term funding.

Potential impacts / outcomes: Re-establishes signature campus sustainability activity around Earth Day/Month.

Budget: Off-campus venue = \$3k

Honorarium ≤ \$3k

Travel = \$500 (CA) to \$1500 (national) plus 2-nights hotel \$200

On campus lunches with students & staff = \$300

Dinners = \$400 (6 people including speaker, evening preceding and of event)

Total: \$8k

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Dear Maggie,

Following discussion at the monthly meeting of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability, I with a request that the space indicated in the attachment be adapted as a flexible working space for meetings, workshops, and similar activities to support the Sustainability Initiative.

We recommend that the separating wall be absent to provide a single 660ft working area. Basic amenities such as a sink and countertop, some shelving, secure storage areas would be beneficial. Likewise, installed audiovisual capability and whiteboards/WhiteWalls would be highly desirable. Furniture should be moveable to accommodate a variety of group sizes, configurations, and activities.

Thank you for considering this request.













Sincerely,
Mike

On behalf of
the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability

Building 2A

Basement and Level 01



- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|
|  | SNRI |  | Administrative Sustainability | |
|  | LES (SNS) |  | General Assignment Classroom | |
|  | CEE (SE) |  | Storage Room | SLAB ON GRADE |
|  | Mechanical Engineering (SE) |  | Conference Rooms | D Dry Lab |
|  | Colloquy space |  | Break Room/Kitchen | SC Synth Chem |
|  | Class Lab Assistant |  | Vacant | W Wet Lab |
- BASEMENT BELOW**

Subject: Shortlist of quotes/phrases for Building 2A lobby
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 9:58:09 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Michael Dawson
To: Margaret Saunders, Gregg Camfield, Ed Klotzbier
CC: UCM Provost EVC, Rich Shintaku, April Graves

Dear Gregg, Maggie, Ed:

The Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability completed ranking the quotes/phrases received — from faculty, staff, and students — that were requested to capture sentiment representing sustainability at UC Merced. We received 76 suggestions. Of these, we shortlisted ten (procedure described below) and are forwarding the top four for your consideration and feedback. We would greatly appreciate your input to ensure these are also acceptable and preferred by administration, do not raise any spectres (e.g. of cultural appropriation, flawed originators, ...), are of sufficient length for installation, and are otherwise 'wall-worthy' by whatever additional criteria the campus has for such things. Please feel welcome to share the list with colleagues as appropriate.

'We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children'

"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."

Our actions today, sustaining life for tomorrow

The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth

When these have been vetted, we will need to choose only one for installation. Perhaps in the spirit of the collaboration that has brought us this far, and the campus community this is intended to represent, we can ask the admin, faculty, and student sustainability committees to come to a prompt consensus? I understand time is of the essence.

For the chosen phrase, we will still want to do a little fact-checking, e.g. exact wording, source, grammar, etc. Perhaps also we will need a little plaque somewhere with attribution, origins, context?

Please let me know if you have any questions / suggestions. We look forward to hearing back from you.

With best regards,
Mike

p.s. There are quite a few nice quotes in the list; perhaps we can put/adapt some of these to other uses in the coming months too.

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Submitted phrases were extracted from any identifying information (such as the source of the phrase, or the submitter) and then ranked by five volunteer tenure track research faculty, one unit 18 faculty member, one student, and four staff members. They were all asked to rank each phrase as follows:

- ‘ ‘ = not appropriate
- 1 = appropriate
- 2 = preferred

I then sorted the phrases using four metrics, each providing a slightly different perspective on which were most favored:

- # ranks = the number of times a phrase received a rank of either 1 or 2
- # ‘preferred’ ranks = the number of times a phrase received a rank of 2
- mean = the average (mean) rank attributed to a phrase
- median = the average (median) rank attributed to a phrase.

The top 10 phrases in each ranking system are provided below, for context. Those highlighted in gold occurred in all four ‘top tens’, those in orange occurred in three of the four ‘top tens’. From these the FACS recommended four for further consideration (see above).

ranks

‘We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children’
"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."
Our actions today, sustaining life for tomorrow
The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth
Pioneering sustainable practices in the heart of the valley for the global community
One Earth, One Chance, One Goal
"There is nothing as powerful, as capable of transforming itself and the planet, as the human imagination"
This is our one and only planet. It is our responsibility to care for it.
The future is bright, great and green.
We cannot change what we are not aware of, and once we are aware, we cannot help but change

'preferred' ranks

‘We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children’
Our actions today, sustaining life for tomorrow
"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."
The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth
One Earth, One Chance, One Goal
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only one that has.
"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

"We all have a moral obligation to leave this world a better place than the world that we've found"

Working everyday to ensure a better tomorrow.

Sustainability, ensuring the future of life on Earth, is an infinite game, the endless expression of generos

mean

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the

has.

'We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children'

Our actions today, sustaining life for tomorrow

The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

One Earth, One Chance, One Goal

Working everyday to ensure a better tomorrow.

Sustainability, ensuring the future of life on Earth, is an infinite game, the endless expression of generos

"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."

In nature, nothing exists alone

median

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the

has.

'We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children'

Our actions today, sustaining life for tomorrow

The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

One Earth, One Chance, One Goal

Working everyday to ensure a better tomorrow.

Sustainability, ensuring the future of life on Earth, is an infinite game, the endless expression of generos

"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."

Eleven tied for 10th place

09 October 2019
To: Maggie Saunders
From: FACS
Subject: Request for Native American quotes

Dear Maggie,

Per your request on behalf of the 2020 Governance Board at the 28 August Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) meeting, we here provide additional potential quotes for the SRE lobby.

While the Governance Board specifically requested/suggested quotes of Native American individuals, for practical purposes, the search was expanded to also include indigenous peoples in other parts of the world. The scope of the search was then limited to: (1) quotes/proverbs for which attribution to at least a tribe/group (if not a specific individual) had a chance of being verified (which often meant excluding historical “quotes”); and (2) quotes that are not easily identified from the get-go as false (such as the oft-cited Chief Seattle “quote”).

Nine quotes were shortlisted for further consideration (see following pages). Information on sources and related matters is embedded among the quotes.

Among some FACS members there was some preference for a shortened version of #4, taking either the earlier (“Mother Earth ... within our world”) or later (“To achieve oneness ... abundance of diversity”) part. FACS members discussed a variety of potential interpretations of any quote (e.g. #1 “Resource” and “heirloom” are not necessarily mutually exclusive concepts; the Earth is a resource to plants and non-human animals; there is no means of survival for humanity—sustainable or otherwise—that does not depend on natural resources, e.g. ecosystem services and goods). Faculty also noted there may be a range of assumptions and implications that are lost or acquired by a quote placed in a novel context. In some cases there may arise additional matters of outreach and inclusion. Consequently, then, there are a range of considerations, interpretations, and validations yet to be made in choosing among these quotes, a phrase originating de novo from the campus, or yet another option, and we leave those determinations with the Board.

Sincerely,
Mike

Michael N Dawson
Chair, Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability

& pp members of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability

1. **“Mother Earth is not a resource, she is an heirloom.” — David Ipina, Yurok**
 - a. Pros: Ipina (died 1998) was a Yurok artist, and thus, native Californian (from the northwest coast of the state); as an artist, Ipina lends a humanistic aspect to what might be considered by many to simply be the purview of natural science/engineering; the quote is simple, short, and to the point; vetting looks good thus far, although he may have simply written or said this to a (non-native) acquaintance (see links below), so we may not be able to verify to the extent we might want
 - b. Cons: Yurok are not one of the native groups local to the greater Merced area
 - c. Vetting issues to date:
 - i. This quote is listed on several websites, but the clearest verifiable attribution thus far is here: http://www.head-of-state-samoa.ws/speeches_pdf/Samoan%20Jurisprudence%2029%20October%202007.pdf(see also: <https://books.google.com/books?id=BNuMDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT166&lpg=PT166&dq=david+ipinia&source=bl&ots=oCD2nX68zm&sig=ACfU3U3LMvtpUcePxPcHEhBeokutj-K6Dg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewidvLzP3brkAhWeJDQIHdUZAVwQ6AEwA3oECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=david%20ipinia&f=false>)
 - ii. The last name is sometimes spelled “Ipinia” (including in the book chapter linked above), but it appears (based in part on this obituary of someone who appears to be a family member, given geography, etc.: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/times-standard/obituary.aspx?n=christina-deanna-ipina&pid=16066192>) that “Ipina” is correct (but this should be further verified)
 - iii. One rather sketchy website identifies Ipina as Lakota (i.e., Plains) rather than Yurok, but we think we can discount this
 - iv. We can likely learn more about/confirm some things about Ipina by referring to NEWS FROM NATIVE CALIFORNIA, Volume 9, Number 2, 1996 (which uses “Ipina” spelling, further confirming this)

2. **“E tangi ana nga reanga o uta, e mahara ana nga reanga a taima ta aha ra e whakamahana taku ora kia tina – When the land, river, and sea creatures are in distress then I have nothing to be proud of” -- Ngati Wai [i.e., Māori iwi (social group) of the east coast of the Northland Region of New Zealand, rather than named individual]**
 - a. Pros: also have quote in native language (Maori), which could also be included in the lobby quote, if so desired; humanistic aspect of individual responsibility that might be important/interesting twist (i.e., not just the problem, but also the solution); Maori have been involved in some interesting conservation efforts based on their holistic understanding of people and the natural world
 - b. Cons: not Native American – instead native New Zealanders; proverb rather than individual quote
 - c. Vetting issues to date:
 - i. Seems legitimate given this (which is source):https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/77047/2_1_Harmsworth.pdf
 - ii. Will need to verify any diacritical marks are included in final text

3. **“Ko ahau te taiao, ko te taiao, ko ahau – The ecosystem defines my quality of life” -- Ngati Wai and Ngati Whatua [latter group is of the lower Northland Peninsula of New Zealand's North Island]**
 - a. Pros/Cons/Vetting same as above

4. **“Mother Earth is our first teacher. She has informed us that oneness does not equal sameness. She shows us this through the harmonious balance that is held in the rich biodiversity that exists within our world. To achieve oneness we must transcend our differences and embrace the integration of every individual aspect of humanity into the whole, knowing that all healthy systems are comprised of complexity and an abundance of diversity.” -- Sherri Mitchell, Weh'na Ha'mu Kwasset [latter appears to be her native name]**
 - a. Pros: Woman, Native American (although eastern US), contemporary activist
 - b. Cons: too long; not California
 - c. Vetting issues to date:
 - i. yet to verify the source of this quote (e.g., book? speech?), and would definitely need to do this before accepting it as accurate; some of it may be cribbed/changed (by Mitchell or others) from p. 119 passage in her book “Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-based Change”
 - ii. Information about Mitchell can be found here:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherri_Mitchell

5. **“Together we can end the holocaust against the environment.” —Haida Gwaii Traditional Circle of Elders**
 - a. Pros: Native American; short, simple
 - b. Cons: Haida are NW coast Canada, so a bit far afield if desire more local quote; perhaps too “natural” and not enough “cultural” in this quote?
 - c. Vetting issues to date:
 - i. not yet been able to verify the source or attribution of this quote

Additional authors/readings were suggested from *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril* (https://books.google.com/books/about/Moral_Ground.html?id=XkLpCAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button#v=onepage&q=tinker&f=false) including by one woman of color (Savoy) and one Native American man (Tinker). The latter is focused on here given the Governance Board directive toward Native Americans. Some “possibles” from Tinker (in the order they appear in the text):

6. **“It is one thing to claim that we are all related, but quite another to realize the full extent of those relationships – and the responsibilities that come with maintaining them.”**
7. **“Ultimately our understanding of our relationship to all that lives in the world around us is an understanding of a shared Earth.”**

8. **“If I know empirically that I am related to all those persons in the world, then it becomes more difficult for me to hurt any one of these persons, human or other-than-human.”**
9. **“We look at the world and all its constituent parts at any moment in time and recognize our relatives in each constituent ... from trees to dart-fish.”**

It's difficult to pull some of these quotes out of context (e.g., to understand what Tinker means by “relatives” as both human and other-than-human”) and for them to have the same impact (e.g., #6, #8 suffer in this way). Thus, #7 may stand alone the best. #9 is specially addressing the behavior of Native Americans.

A short bio of Tinker from the book: <http://moralground.com/authors/george-tinker>. And more can be found here (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Tinker) and here (<https://www.iliff.edu/faculty/tink-tinker/>). Tinker is Osage; Great Plains rather than California or west coast / southwest.