Sustainability Council Minutes

July 6, 2020

Attendance: Kristal Hockenberry, Darlene Clark, Marianne Adam, Janet, Knott, Erin Kitt-Lewis

Absent: Whitney Nevins, Brenda Holtzer

Sustainability definition: the simultaneous pursuit of human health and happiness, environmental quality and economic wellbeing for current and future generations.

The Council met to discuss how to incorporate the SDGs into the undergraduate core curricular courses as a way to assist/guide faculty to showcase how the SDGs are used in our courses.

The nursing courses were divided up among Council members to review and incorporate SDGs at the 200, 300 and 400 levels. Erin and Marianne developed a template(attached as NursXXX) for each course(after the meeting) and it was agreed that we would incorporate the SDG tracker form(attached) with the completed course template. The form highlighted briefly each of the 17 SDGs followed by content areas for each course that were highlighted with appropriate SDGs that were met with that content.

The reviews were placed in a Sustainability Council teams folder in Microsoft office.

Our goal was to share this content at the Fall Faculty Meeting, but time constraints prevent that. Kristal Hockenberry made copies of the tracker form for each campus coordinator and Marianne Adam sent printed color copies of the SDGs to UP via interoffice mail for each faculty member in the CON. A brief explanation of the SDG addition to each course will be included in the packets. Kori Johnsonbaugh will provide each campus coordinator(12) with copies of the documents for each faculty member at those 12 campuses for distribution.

The curricular SDG updates provide a great opportunity to highlight sustainability in nursing course content. This includes healthcare disparities, health and well being, access to clean water and air, gender equity, social justice, etc. Hopefully, inclusion of the SDGs into course content(as simple as a power point slide at the beginning of class) will enhance the impact that we already have with these goals.

Higher education plays a unique and vital role in creating a sustainable society where the economic, cultural and health needs of the world’s people are met while the vitality of nature is maintained or enhanced. The content is there in the CON---it just needs to be showcased visually.

A short video explaining how to incorporate the SDGs in a slide at the beginning of lecture, as one example, was discussed in lieu of face to face contact at the faculty meeting due to COVID. We will discuss this at our September meeting.

The Sustainability Planning Guide from the Sustainability Institute could be helpful for those who want to know more. Penn State’s Climate Action Resolution would also provide additional information. There is also a University of Pennsylvania 1 hr webinar also provides an excellent example of how to incorporate SDGs into nursing curricula.

Next meeting: September 21, 10 am via zoom

https://psu.zoom.us/j/9420164169

Meeting ID: 942 016 4169