Fashion Institute of Technology
Sustainability
FIT/Infor Design and Technology Lab
May 2, 2017 | 10am - 12pm
**Innovation Center Project Overview**

**Project history and objectives**

The FIT Strategic Plan *Our Legacy, Our Future: FIT Beyond 2020* was approved in 2013 and has three goals:

1. **ENSURE ACADEMIC AND CREATIVE EXCELLENCE**: Provide a rigorous learning experience built on the highest standards of academic and scholarly excellence, an environment that promotes creativity and experimentation, and diverse experiential learning with a variety of industry partners.

2. **BE AN INNOVATION CENTER FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES WORLDWIDE**: Partner with creative industries worldwide to help anticipate and address key challenges, build a stronger culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at FIT, and establish collaborations that translate creative ideas into action.

3. **PROVIDE AN EMPOWERING STUDENT EXPERIENCE IN A COHESIVE COMMUNITY**: Build an inclusive community in which students engage with, learn from and inspire each other, discovering how their differences and similarities promote creativity, intellectual and personal growth, and understanding. Create FIT traditions that generate a strong sense of community and school spirit, building affinity with the College as a whole among current students and engendering loyalty among alumni.

As one of the steps to implement Goal 2 of the plan, FIT engaged InnovationLabs to assist in the development of a strategic plan for an Innovation Center.

**Design thinking methodology**

InnovationLabs is applying design thinking methodology in our approach to this project.

We started with needfinding to understand the FIT culture and context around innovation. During this phase we interviewed more than 75 members of the FIT community, observed classes, met with competitors, toured the campus, and learned a lot about FIT.

**Pop-up prototyping**

In an internal modeling and ideation session, InnovationLabs identified 10 important concepts that surfaced during needfinding. Ten pop-up prototype sessions, of which this is one, are being conducted to test and further develop those concepts. Following the pop-up prototypes there will be a Planning Council session and two roundtable sessions to get further input and feedback.

**Innovation Master Plan**

The project will result in an Innovation Master Plan for FIT, with recommendations on the innovation strategy, portfolio, process, culture, and infrastructure that FIT should pursue in order for FIT to achieve its innovation goal.
Pop-Up Prototype Sessions

1. **Style Shop**  
   *Reimagining the Style Shop as a leading edge experimenter*

2. **Student Survey**  
   *Gaining more student input*

3. **Innovation Center Design**  
   *What should the Center look like?*

4. **Challenging the Problem**  
   *How can we promote more critical thinking?*

5. **Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary**  
   *How can we promote more interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary thinking?*

6. **Sustainability**  
   *How we can accelerate efforts to innovate in sustainability?*

7. **Outside Connections and Matchmaking**  
   *How should we manage and promote innovation for outsiders?*

8. **Innovation Center Operating Models**  
   *What are the best ways to set up and manage the FIT Innovation Center? We have identified nine possibilities so far…*

9. **Innovation Curriculum**  
   *What should FIT’s approach be to teaching innovation to students?*

10. **Innovation in Graduate Programs**  
    *How could the FIT Innovation Center support the teaching of innovation in graduate programs?*
### Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tessa Bletrano</td>
<td>Student, Fashion Business Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Susanne Goetz</td>
<td>Textile Surface Design</td>
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<td>Emily Jacobson</td>
<td>Special Assistant to the Vice President, Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness</td>
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<td>Professor Arthur Kopelman</td>
<td>Science and Mathematics</td>
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<td>Professor Amy Lemmon</td>
<td>English and Communication Studies</td>
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<td>Suzanne McGillicuddy</td>
<td>Assistant Dean of Students, Enrollment Management and Student Success</td>
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<td>Professor Karen Pearson</td>
<td>Science and Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Grazyna Pilatowicz</td>
<td>Interior Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latrik Amare Tekle</td>
<td>Student, Advertising and Marketing Communications</td>
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### Session Overview

Langdon Morris opened the session with an overview of the Strategic Plan for Innovation project.

Then the group brainstormed in pairs and trios about practices in the fashion and creative industries, writing each on a post-it and plotting where it lands on the spectrum between totally unsustainable and highly sustainable. After plotting their post-its, they added detail, clustering and labeling ideas.

Next, three teams formed. Each selected a category from the sustainability continuum, identified a related project that FIT could implement, and developed a high-level project plan. The following projects were selected:
- Cafeteria Accountability
- Paper to Digital
- Campus Sustainability Office

After reporting out their project plans, teams identified how an FIT Innovation Center might support the project goals.

Finally, participants were invited to write their final thoughts, recommendations, or big ideas that emerged from the session on a post-it and leave it on the door.
Sustainability Continuum

See the document ‘Sustainability Continuum.pdf’ for high-res post-its
Sustainability Continuum: Non-Sustainable

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INNOVATION
Sustainability Continuum: Highly Sustainable
Team Breakout Challenge

Assignment

Round 1
The group broke into three teams, each selecting a cluster of topics from the Sustainability Continuum to further explore. The questions to the left guided their discussions.

Round 2
Next, the teams identified ways in which the Innovation Center could assist in achieving the goals identified in Round 1, with the assumption that the Innovation Center would be a physical space on campus.
Team 1: Cafeteria Accountability

- Composting
  - Chelsea

Cafeteria accountability:

1. Reusable plates + utensils
2. Composting
3. Educational messaging + programs
4. Sourcing locally

Why does this matter?

NEED:
- Dishwashers + infrastructure
- Waste segregation
- Plates + utensils
- Composting + partner!
  - UVM

Examples:
- St. Olaf College
- CSU, Ft. Collins, CO
- UVM

Motivation
Inspiration
Satisfaction
Team 1: Cafeteria Accountability

Who should be involved?

1. Students
2. Administration
3. President Brown
4. Aramark/Cafeteria Supplies
5. Sustainability Council & Committee
6. Student Committee
7. Future Sustainability Officer

Action Plan:

- People power!
- Strategic plan for transforming + gathering of info + presentation to admin + insight
- PR

Innovation center involvement:

- Research
- Information exchange
- Interdisciplinary discussion
- Collaboration
- Resource/documentation (virtual)

TIMELINE:

1 Year

for planning & implementation
Team 2: Paper to Digital

1) Physical samples of materials
   - Materials
   - Libraries

2) Digital information
   - Consistency
   - Accessibility
   - Visibility

3) Team 2: Admin. Form
   - Administrative Services
   - IT (TDT & Media Services)
   - Academic Affairs
   - Library

2) Teaching/instructional materials & practices
   - Goal: Digitize as much as possible
   - Students → digital devices
   - Timeline: Initial roll-out → 1 year ongoing review & updates

3) Promotion of electronic submissions
   - Resources:
     - Space
     - Trainers
     - Support staff
     - Releases time & stipends
     - Hardware & software
     - Instrucional designers
Team 2: Paper to Digital

Innovation Center
- Students teach faculty
- Place where training takes place
- Programming, panels, seminars (conference?)
- Intensives
- Refreshers
- Drop-ins
- Lunch meetings
- Classes can visit professors
- Faculty/student interaction

Community Hub for:
- Interdisciplinary projects
- Resource center for pertinent information
Team 3: Campus Sustainability Office

- Creation of a Campus of Sustainability Office
  - Director's cabinet level position (like diversity)
    - qual (qualified)
    - Responsible for coordination
      - Facilities (BG & C), ABM, HVAC
      - Curricula
      - All Campus Groups
        - FS & C
        - Sc
        - Students
        - ROS Halls
        - Gov.
  - Outreach: Resources
    - SUNY - campus, public, other institutions
    - NYS. NYC STH
    - Research
  - Other:
  - Coordination FIT's efforts related to sustainability
  - Efficient use of resources
    - Synthesis of campus-wide efforts
    - To continuously reduce the institution's ecological footprint

- Director
  - Staff
    - Coord.BiG, greenRoof
  - Admin
    - Web Coord.
- Timeline
  - Search for position from (1/17) (5/17)
  - Establishment of the office (spring '17)
Team 3: Campus Sustainability Office

Synergy Center!

- Research

Innovation in Sustainability

That Team
- Faculty
- Staff
- Students

Materials
Energy Use

Applications
New "Sustainable" Practices

New Materials
Final Thoughts

**Handout**

May 1, 2017 Economist article regarding sustainability in the fashion industry:


**Recommended Website**

FIT is a member of PLAN, Post Landfill Action Network. Visit www.postlandfill.org and mention FIT. They will provide a password and access to a wealth of resources.