UF Joint Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday 01-19-2017

1:00-3:00pm

Reitz Union 2365

Attendance:

Tara Cataldo

David Looney

Matt Williams

Liz Storn

Allison Vitt

Ravi Srinivasan

John Duncan

Connie Nicklin

Phone:

Mark Robinson

Ruth Steiner

1. Welcome
2. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Earth Day Event - 04/12/2017 (final full week of classes)
      1. Reitz Union Board of Governors expressed interest in a sustainability fair
         1. They will be coordinating logistics for the tabling/student group portion of the Earth Day event
         2. Tabling will take place on the area north of the Reitz Union and onto the lawn if necessary
         3. This year there will not be a high-level administrative speaker or announcement of new programs as in past years
         4. The Champions for Change Awards are likely to be separated from Earth Day activities this year in order to bring more attention to the recipients with a stand-alone event
         5. There may be workshops held in the Reitz Union, like those held in Smathers Library at the 2016 event
         6. Matt Williams: What does the Joint Sustainability Committee see as aspects of an event that would create a draw for other faculty and staff?
            1. Tara Cataldo recommended an outside speaker of some repute be chosen for a keynote. She also recommended that an additional student speaker be chosen to draw more students.
            2. It was recommended that the event be held later in the day to encourage more faculty and staff participation
            3. David Looney: What has worked well with faculty/staff in the past?

In the past it has been difficult to draw a large group of faculty and staff. The primary faculty focused event we have hosted has been the Prairie Project.

* + - * 1. Tara Cataldo suggested that there be a tie-in with the Green Office Certification program to draw staff.

Perhaps a showcase of successful green teams that are already established

* + - * 1. Matt Williams: Can the committee recommend a speaker?
        2. Matt Williams: Can the committee recommend how can we more successfully market to faculty and staff?
        3. David Looney: Dr. Pepper offered to bring in pop artists/comedians to discuss leadership, branding and marketing with students on campus. He suggests that perhaps something similar could work with a topic related to Earth Day. What topics would be appropriate to bring to Dr. Pepper to possibly bring in one of their speakers?

Allison Vitt: Social Sustainability topics may be appropriate

* + - * 1. Tara Cataldo: Perhaps a repurposed art or fashion contest

Alachua County Trashformations Winners could perhaps be honored or recognized

* + - * 1. The committee is welcome to contribute ideas over the next few weeks during the planning phase of the event
  1. Allison Vitt will be leaving for maternity leave shortly and her temporary replacement (Hannah Ulloa) has been hired
  2. Champions for Change Awards
     1. Nominations will be received during February and March
        1. We hope to award 5 from the sustainability side and 5 from the health and well-being side
        2. The committee can assist by reviewing nominations and making recommendations
           1. David Looney recommended this be added as agenda item to the March meeting of the JSC
           2. The nomination process will be closed at least a week before the meeting and nominations will be sent out to the committee for review as they are submitted
           3. Allison Vitt will send out last year’s submissions to help establish guidelines for the winners
        3. Matt Williams: The committee’s input on possible candidates for the awards would also be welcome (students, faculty & staff can be nominated)
        4. Allison/Hannah will send out the nomination packets at the beginning of the submission period
  3. Neutral UF Coalition
     1. All members of the coalition have been invited to join a tree planting on January 21st and/or February 4th
     2. This will give members of the Coalition an opportunity to see how their carbon offsets are created and take part in the process
     3. The trees (endangered Longleaf Pines) are planted on land managed by the Alachua Conservation Trust
     4. We Are Neutral, the carbon offset organization that we are working with will lead the planting
     5. In addition to tree plantings, WAN provides carbon offsets through energy savings retrofits in local renter communities. They work in partnership with the Community Weatherization Coalition and are hoping to expand to other groups in the future.
     6. The focus of the Coalition is to mitigate the carbon impact of campus operations
        1. The campus strategy has involved efficiency improvements and use reductions, but we will need to pursue some sort of offset to reach our 2025 carbon neutrality goal
        2. Choosing to purchase renewable energy sources from Duke Energy is unlikely to occur, nor is relying on DE to choose more sustainable energy sources to be provided to campus
     7. By becoming a more engaged customer, UF is pushing WAN to improve their processes and create more offset capacity
     8. The Office of Sustainability is now considering ways to recognize those who are participating in the Neutral UF Coalition
        1. Perhaps a recognition at the Earth Day event that is coupled with a challenge to other faculty and staff to join

1. Other Business
   1. Ravi Srinivasan discussed his work on energy issues on behalf of the committee
      1. The sub-committee recommended that offset calculations need to be determined using the types of energy sources that are available to campus
      2. The sub-committee also worked on making recommendations with the IT group for energy use by computers on campus
      3. Mark Robinson mentioned that the tool (IBM Endpoint Manager/Bigfix) that was initially looked at to determine and modify energy use will soon be decommissioned
         1. No replacement tool is currently scheduled to be launched
         2. The recommendations/guidelines can still be pushed forward to encourage individual units and users to adjust the power use settings on their workstations
         3. Copiers and multi-function devices under the Xerox PrintSmart program should also incorporate power management solutions as they were found to be some of the largest users of energy in the system
         4. It will also be important to determine the use of all plug draws on campus
   2. Ravi Srinivasan also discussed a new project that he is working on to identify the energy use of buildings on campus by building use type, occupant type, and other factors to determine the best way to identify use and needs
      1. He is looking for more data to inform his research and guide recommendations
      2. This data set is highly sought after around campus
   3. Discussion of the progress of the purchasing sub-committee
      1. Working to develop a policy for purchasing recycled paper on campus
2. Meeting Adjourned 2:14pm