Sustainability Committee Meeting

04/20/2017 - 1:00pm - Reitz Union 2340

Attendance:

David Looney

John Duncan

Connie Nicklin

Liz Storn

Ravi Srinivasan

Matt Williams

Mark Robinson

Phone:

Damian Adams

Tara Cataldo

1. Welcome
2. Approval of 03/16/2017 Minutes
   1. Motion to approve by Mark Robinson, Second by Ravi Srinivasan
   2. Minutes unanimously approved
3. Announcements
   1. Ravi Srinivasan recognized Matt Williams for his assistance with the group from Cardiff University
   2. David Looney noted that Matt Williams was recognized at the campus-wide SAA Awards
4. Campus Earth Day Review
   1. Matt Williams discussed the three events that took place during Campus Earth Day this year
      1. The Sustainability showcase at the Reitz Union was organized very well by the Board of Managers
         1. John Duncan said that Mark Maranack did a good job organizing the event
      2. Champions for Change Awards Ceremony
         1. The winners and attendees gave us excellent feedback about the event
         2. The ceremony was short and went very smoothly
         3. The catering was nearly all sustainable
            1. Jacob Adamsd encountered difficulty in planning the sustainability of the catering which is something that will be addressed by Dave Looney and his team in the coming months
      3. Philippe Cousteau’s speech was very well attended
         1. Emerson Hall staff had to add seats to accommodate the crowd
         2. His talk was excellent and was exceptionally well received by the public and UF attendees
   2. Feedback requested from committee members
      1. Mark Robinson appreciated the after hours ceremony and speech
      2. Booking for next year’s events will begin now to ensure that all events can be held at the Reitz Union
5. Official Policies from the faculty Senate
   1. Matt Williams updated the committee on his conversation with the faculty senate regarding committee procedures
      1. A committee review process is underway and this committee may have an opportunity to update its mission, name or other aspects to better reflect its purpose
      2. Sue Alvers, secretary to the chair of the faculty senate, has been helpful in this process
   2. Attendance Policy
      1. Three consecutive unexcused absences will require members to roll-off of the committee
         1. Excused absences can include teaching class, other meetings, attending conferences, etc
         2. Those in violation of the policy are immediately excused
      2. Because this committee is an infrastructure committee it is considered a 12-month committee
         1. Members roll-off as appropriate on the first day of the Fall Semester
      3. Ravi Srinivasan noted that the student members of the committee have not been in attendance
         1. Much like the other committee members, scheduling issues have come into play
         2. The appointees are political appointees from student government
         3. Student representatives are held to the same attendance policy
6. Paper Policy Discussion
   1. Discussion regarding the recycled paper policy review under way by the Policy Sub Committee
      1. The university currently has no official policy regulating the type of paper that must be purchased by UF entities
      2. Liz Storn presented a summary for the committee
         1. AASHE STARS counts the paper purchasing policy at approximately 1% of their evaluation process
            1. Beginning with our next submission we can get full credit by purchasing 90-100% recycled content paper or paper that is FSC certified
            2. LEED EB Policy requires that the top 5 most purchased items on campus be reported, as well as paper and other sustainability related items

60% of paper purchased must be at least 40% recycled content

* + - * 1. Damian Adams suggested that a fellow faculty member attend a meeting and provide information regarding the FSC, SFC, SFI certifications

He also suggested that a policy that encourages non-certified paper products, which would help ensure sustainable forestry projects, may be politically controversial and may ultimately encourage deforestation

There appear to be only two FSC certified forests in the state of Florida and neither produce wood that is used for paper

There are SFI and tree-farms that do produce trees for paper in the state of Florida

* + - * 1. There needs to be a distinction made on rather we are currently able to source florida-grown/produced paper or not

Discussion on the merits of managed tree-farms and natural forests

What are the sustainability attributes that we want to target with this policy?

Damian Adams suggested that, if given the choice, he would lean towards a policy encouraging purchasing paper with some recycled content and give units across campus the option to purchase paper of whichever recycled content level they prefer

Dave Looney made the point that many units purchase paper solely on the cost of the product with no consideration to the recycled content of the paper

A university policy that required some minimum recycled content may be a motivation for units to take sustainability into account when making purchasing decisions

He would like to have a policy recommendation come from the group this year

Is the committee comfortable making a recommendation of a 30% recycled content paper?

The committee indicated that they would like to continue this process and draft proposed language shortly

1. Other Events & Announcements
   1. Spring Collection Day took place yesterday and was successfully spearheaded by Jacob Adams
      1. Discussion on the separation of responsibilities between Asset Management and EHS on campus and how they may be able to better serve campus units
      2. The event is open to the public
   2. We Are Neutral’s Earth Day Celebration is tomorrow from 4-10pm at First Magnitude Brewery. Neutral UF Coalition members receive a 20% discount on tickets which include discounted drinks, a farm-to-table dinner, a silent auction and concerts by local bands
   3. National March for Science is happening in Gainesville from the stadium to Bo Diddley Plaza on Saturday
   4. Digital Worlds Institute is holding a VR event related to sustainability over the next three nights
   5. Ravi Srinivasan discussed the use of building rating systems for new buildings on campus
      1. The current standard is for LEED Gold designation for all new buildings
      2. LEED IV is being rolled out soon and will be more stringent than LEED III
      3. Green Globes development is currently offline
      4. Dustin Stephany may attend a future committee meeting to add more to the conversation
   6. John Duncan announced the upcoming construction of the CRC and Engineering buildings as well as the closing of Gale Lemerand Dr.
   7. Connie Nicklin announced that she will be leaving the university and that June will be her last meeting on the committee
   8. Matt Williams discussed the issue of the birds on campus that are hitting windows
      1. A digital reporting system using iNaturalist has been implemented to track bird strikes on campus’
      2. Mark Hostetler out of Wildlife & Conservation along with Dustin Stephany has been investigating possible solutions
         1. Window frosting options to reduce reflective surfaces of glass have been piloted
         2. Another less expensive option, parachute cord suspended in front of windows, is being piloted on campus as well
         3. Ravi Srinivasan suggested that there may be an option for a window film that can produce solar energy once installed
2. Meeting adjourned at 2:17pm

Next meeting will take place