12/8/2016 Sustainability Committee Meeting

Reitz 1025 Conference Room

Present:

Tara Cataldo

John Duncan

Matt Williams

Liz Storn

Allison Vitt

Ann Lindell

Connie Nicklin

Chris Martinez

Amy Haberman

Phone:

Mark Robinson

Ravi Srinivasan

Ruth Steiner

1. Welcome
   1. Group introduced themselves to those who had not attended before
2. Approval of minutes
   1. Postponed due to lack of quorum
3. Sub Committee Reports
   1. Ravi Srinivasan discussed the work of the energy sub-committee briefly
      1. They will be exploring the IBM Endpoint Manager as an option for tracking and monitoring energy use by PC’s when it comes online
         1. The software can predict carbon savings as well
   2. Tara Cataldo discussed the Policy subcommittee
      1. They have reviewed policies and will be using the purchasing policy as a test case to determine the possible impacts of the committee
         1. They will focus on paper purchasing
         2. Once a revision is complete, the sub-committee will consult Lisa Deal in Purchasing
         3. Following that consultation the sub-committee will bring their revisions to the Sustainability Committee for additional review and feedback
4. Gator Green Grant/Pepsi Program
   1. Pepsi funds a campus sustainability project with a social media platform to garner votes and participation from students
      1. Prior projects have focused on post-consumer composting in the Reitz Union, improvements at Library West
      2. Some student ideas have been difficult to implement, so projects that are accepted are kept manageable
   2. A final goal has not been proposed for this year’s project
      1. Nina Stoyen-Rosenberg at HSC may be an asset (per Tara Cataldo)
5. STARS Gaps Review
   1. Discussion of STARS as a program
   2. Matthew Williams discussed the current STARS reporting gaps
      1. The Sustainability Committee is tasked with determining where their efforts can help to bridge these gaps
      2. A full report will be sent out before the holiday break for committee review
   3. Ravi Srinivasan asked if UF is still using LEED standards
      1. UF uses LEED Gold for all new buildings
      2. No LEED standard has been set for Existing Buildings at UF
6. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Green office Certification
      1. Liz Storn discussed the progress of the program
      2. Three offices are in a beta stage, testing the updates to the program
         1. Feedback from the beta offices is currently being considered and adjustments to the program are being made
      3. The certification is an interview process
         1. Staff visit offices to observe practices in addition to direct input from the offices being certified
      4. A goal has been set for 20 certified offices during 2017
      5. Discussion with Amy regarding the possibility of a green labs certification process for the future
         1. I2SL will be the prime source of any future program
   2. Reitz Union Post-Consumer Composting
      1. Liz Storn discussed progress
      2. Started from a Pepsi Grant
      3. Goal to have customers sort their waste properly
         1. Pilot will likely be held on the ground floor near the Subway and Freshens location to reduce possible contamination
         2. Audits have shown that sorting is fairly successful
   3. Brief discussion of the state of paper towel composting
      1. Will be coming to Reitz soon, likely on the third floor
      2. Successful overall in the areas already implemented
   4. Gator Gears
      1. Jacob Adams discussed the Fall 2016 program
      2. 163 bikes rented
         1. 12 bikes held from rental
         2. 25 bikes not rented
      3. Working with interns to expand rentals for Spring 2017
      4. Brief discussion of the university’s Silver LAB BFU ranking
   5. Transportation Fair
      1. Allison Vitt discussed this year’s event
      2. Electric vehicles were prominently featured this year
      3. Dot voting/survey tent was new this year to allow attendees to give feedback on transportation barriers and encouragements on campus and in the community
         1. The feedback from the surveys has been valuable
            1. The most significant obstacle to RTS bus transport was reported as “stop not close enough” by staff and “not frequent enough stops at my route” by students
            2. Overall, the results were what would have been expected
            3. A brief review of the results was conducted
   6. 2016 Highlights
      1. LAB BFU Silver
      2. 4th year of Tree Campus USA
      3. Completion of course evaluations by Ron Chandler
         1. Identified 600 sustainability related/focused courses
      4. Biodiversity interns have completed cleanups of 5 out of 31 conservation areas on campus
      5. Neutral UF Coalition commuter offset program launched
         1. January 24th and February 4th will be campus community tree plantings in partnership with the Alachua Conservation Trust and We Are Neutral
      6. Communications interns have expanded our digital media presence under Allison Vitt’s guidance
      7. Sustainability will play a role in the Strategic Development Plan
         1. $250,000 for community sustainability projects
         2. $50,00 for arts in community
         3. $50,000 for sustainability initiative
      8. UF to host College Sports Sustainability Summit in February 2017
   7. Updates
      1. Campus Earth Day will be in early April and take place on the Reitz Union North Lawn
      2. Office will be hiring a temporary digital media and communications specialist to fill-in for Allison while she is on maternity leave
      3. A faculty led climate forum will be held in February
7. Other Business
   1. A poll for Spring semester meeting times will be sent out shortly by Jacob Adams
   2. Nominations for 2017-18 Sustainability Committee members are due by 12/16/2016
   3. Champions for Change nominations and timeline will be available soon

Meeting Adjourned at 2:03pm