**Sustainability Committee Meeting 11/20/2014**

10:00am on Thursday, November 20th, 2014

Stadium Conference Room 235

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Cataldo at 10:02am.

**Attendees**:

Tara Cataldo

Matthew Williams

Damian Adams

Ruth Steiner

Sherry Tornwall

Mark Robinson

Connie Nicklin

Kyle Rodriguez

Megan Walker-Radtke

Les Thiele

Jackie Ayers

Paul Mueller

Allen Masters

Damian Adams

1. **Discussion and Approval of Minutes from October Meeting**
   1. Minutes approved unanimously by the committee.
2. **Office of Sustainability Update - Matt Williams**
   1. AASHE Conference Overview
      1. UF had 11 participants
      2. OOS had 8 including three student interns, Seaton Tarrant, David Frank, Taylor Cremo
   2. One Less Car Week with TAPS
      1. Sustainable transportation fair had a great response and turnout
      2. Tesla vehicles, solar race car from UF, UPD registering bikes, fix-a-flat competition, We Are Neutral, bicycle-pedestrian group.
      3. This week is the One Less Car challenge.
      4. We will solicit feedback from participants once the week closes. We will try to determine how to be most effective next year in reaching groups who are not currently using alternative transportation.
   3. Megan and Liz are now working on Audubon Certification, Tree Campus USA recertification, a greenhouse gas inventory, AASHE STARS evaluation.
   4. Final home football game of the season is this weekend.
      1. UAA and WCA are pushing for zero waste still.
      2. Last year’s high was 78%. We are currently estimating approximately 60% for games this season.
      3. A pilot program is being implemented for this game to evaluate a waste ambassador program in the west concourse.
   5. OOS student/reporter interaction process has been reviewed and revamped.
      1. Over 120 interviews were given last month alone.
   6. An environmental journalism program is being started on campus with input from the OOS.
   7. Green Office Certification Program, Green Labs Certification, and Green Teams reinvigoration are current programming priorities for the OOS.

1. **Important Dates**
   1. None Discussed
2. **Old Business**
   1. Campus Master Plan Task Force (Tara, Ruth, Ravi, Kyle)
      1. Campus Master Plan Task Force have put together a series of edits for the new proposed plan. The changes have been generally accepted by the MP committee. Changes reviewed within the committee. Edits to be sent to Linda Dixon today to present to the Board of Trustees.
   2. Discussion:
      1. **A.1.** define “constraints”? Natural: flood-plains, wetlands, lakes, cavernous areas. Man-made: buried hazmat materials, etc.
      2. **A.12**. is the language too specific? RE: habitat/bio-diversity. Can it be broader? “Eco-system services”? “Minimize loss of critical eco-system services”? Sub-committee will work with Damian Adams to address concerns.
      3. **B.5.** - future land use designation shall create concentrations of developments that are organized in such a way to be bike-able, walkable, public transit. Provide multi-modal access. (proposed by Linda Dixon)
      4. **D.** - add item (D.10.) to include prioritization of green fleet vehicles.
      5. **E2.** - “net loss of biodiversity” how to word this to accommodate addressing invasive and weed species.
      6. Send links to committee (masterplan.ufl.edu--> 2025 plan--> docs quick links)
      7. Committee collaborated on edits to track changes document and approved changes will be submitted to Linda Dixon.
   3. STARS Gaps Task Force (Les, Mark, Kyle, Megan)
      1. The task force meeting was great and a full report will follow, per Mark Robinson. Ravi may join task force.
      2. Takeaway: academic component is a large challenge for all universities. There may be an opportunity to use content analysis on syllabi to determine sustainability components in curricula.
      3. Before any content analysis can occur, syllabi must be gathered/located from across the various online resources that exist.
      4. The task force is working to develop a strategy to gather needed information and establish an ongoing process for year-to-year re-evaluation.
      5. OOS developing a list of gaps/deficiencies and possible points for AASHE.
      6. Goal of February 2015 to reach Sierra Green Schools List submission
   4. 2014/2015 Goals
      1. Discussion of goals from summer committee.
      2. **RE: 7.** TAPS committee has been removing language regarding reduction of vehicles on campus and reduction of the carpool program.
      3. **RE: 7**. should the committee suggest adding an entire section dedicated to sustainability in the campus master plan? The five year review may present an opportunity for this. Could we draft a paragraph or two to submit for consideration for incoming President Fuchs? The MP Committee has integrated sustainability across the MP. The process for making changes is very formal and can be restrictive.
      4. Motion to approve the goals as edited unanimously approved by committee.
3. **New Business**
   1. Recognition
      1. Should the committee recognize First Lady Machen for her contributions to sustainability over the years? Possibly a write up to be published that acknowledges her. An official honor to be included as well. A plaque? Plant a tree?
      2. Who would be the best person to ask about Machen’s contributions?
         1. Anna Prizzia would be a good resource.
      3. The Machens are staying in town for the foreseeable future.
   2. Parking privatization
      1. A more in depth discussion will follow at the next meeting of the committee in December.
      2. The general sentiment of the committee seems to fall against the privatization of the parking system at UF.
      3. Privatization could negatively impact the committee’s goals of reduction of cars on campus and implementation of solar infrastructure related to parking
      4. Ohio State University has a privatized parking program that may have inspired the board of trustees to investigate/initiate the process of seeking privatization of the campus parking system.
      5. Discussion of the TAPS committee’s processes
      6. Indiana University went through the process of privatization, decided not to privatize, and then decided to implement privatized strategies to increase parking revenue on campus.
      7. An external evaluation of the UF proposal has been completed.
   3. Additional Discussion
      1. Q: Is the National Bike Challenge tied in currently to One less Car?
         1. There has been some participation, but not enough attention given to the end result and a tie in with OL
      2. Q: Progress Energy contract, do we have a solar target? Is now a time to address this?
         1. CAP (to be revamped soon) the original goal was 100kW, 350kW is now installed. For the future, three options (which ones?) are available, but the process has been arduous. Now it looks like there may be no option, or they may sell it to us. At that point we may have the option to install our own solar infrastructure. proposal to expand to 6mW may be possible
      3. Q: Have we not used our options to lease space on campus for solar for a reason?
         1. Public Service Commission will not allow for it. Power purchase agreements have been discussed. Legal barriers exist. PSC ongoing objections due to Duke Energy pressure. Transfer infrastructure issues exist as well (campus owns on-campus transfer stations, Duke Energy owns immediate off-campus stations, and will not allow GRU to use them).
      4. Group sentiment was to focus on solar in the renewed CAP, as well as taking an official stance. Committee should push ahead of completion of contract negotiations. Develop a meaningful target for solar expansion. Perhaps the committee can invite Dustin Jackson from PPD to address these issues.
      5. Q: Can UF take advantage of the Duke Sun Sense grant?
         1. Yes, and we have previously. Another round of funding may be incoming in January under our current contract.
      6. Q: How does our renewable energy portfolio compare to others?
         1. Currently we are at 1.1% renewable energy. Can we be the leader? Top ten? Could be our goal? Arizona State is a leader currently.
      7. Mark Robinson proposes that the committee take a stance that we strive to be a leader among universities in the realm of renewable (preferably solar) energy. Create a goal of total self-reliance for solar generation.
         1. Dustin Jackson, John Lawson could come and advise the committee on possible options and wording for an official proposal.
      8. Q: What percentage of buildings on campus could support (structurally) solar installations?
         1. John Lawson and Dustin Stephany have been addressing this. The committee can seek their input.
      9. Q: Can the committee make a statement and present a proposal with research/study to the faculty senate for approval as well?
         1. Chairperson Cataldo expressed approval of the idea.
         2. Motion by Mark Robinson to draft a statement, seconded by Ruth Steiner, to draft a statement in the committee meeting regarding increasing solar.
         3. Goal to reach top ten among universities for solar generation, or become a leader.
         4. Could the Chair write a memo to the lead negotiator in the energy contract indicating that any prohibition on solar energy is incompatible with our goal?
         5. Motion to action: Mark Robinson, second Ruth Steiner: authorize Chair to draft a statement to Curtis Reynolds. Unanimous vote of the committee approves.
         6. Wording and recommendations for the statement were discussed
      10. Q: Are we sending notices to turn-off computers over holidays?
          1. IBM End-Point Manager will be assisting this year. OOS will also include it in our newsletters.
4. **Announcements**
   1. Introduction of new Technical Manager for Waste Diversion at PPD, Marie Steinwachs. She will seek alternatives to waste diversion on campus to increase campus sustainability. She joins us from the University of Missouri, but is a Florida native.
   2. A panel may be formed to represent those sustainability positions on campus that exist outside the OOS. This would be an opportunity for the committee to meet these individuals and discuss their roles on campus. Jacob will send an invitation to the panel members and organize the meeting with the committee. May include the green teams on campus as well. Could roll into the earth day/month events after the initial meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:55am.

**Next meeting: Thursday, December 18th at 10:00am**