Sustainability Committee Meeting 11/20/2014

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

Stadium 235

called to order at 10:02am.

Attendees:

Tara Cataldo

Matthew Williams

Damian Adams

Ruth Steiner

Sherry

Mark Robinson

Connie Nicklin

Kyle Rodriguez

Megan Walker-Radtke

Les Thiele

Jackie Ayers

**1. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from November Meeting**

1. No additions to agenda
2. Minutes Approved unanimously

**2.  Office Update –Matt Williams**

1. OOS is continuing to catch up on sustainability metrics for campus (Aaudubon, STARS, Princeton Review's Guide to Green Schools, Sierra Club, Tree Campus USA)
   1. Question: What's up with tree campus certification?
      1. The certification requires: a tree committee on campus, having adequate spending for tree related projects, have a tree care plan, host an Arbor Day event and a service learning project. It’s an annual recertification. We are working with the School of Forestry on this project as well.
   2. Megan Walker-Radtke is taking lead on sustainable labs pilot program.
2. Team working on green office certification program
3. The office is engaging with Gators Going Green (SG sustainability group) Allison Vitt is working with them on voicing the carbon neutral status.
4. Preparing summaries and strategic goals for Dr. Fuchs
5. Pepsi Refresh challenge collaboration on post-consumer composting in the Reitz Union.
   1. Liz Storn performed a mini waste audit at the Reitz with students volunteering to assist.
   2. The estimation was that 60% could be composted. The survey found that with some packaging material changes, we could reach 95% compostable.
   3. The challenge in January will ask students to give ideas for education, sorting, etc. to improve sorting and improve composting. The student volunteers were very helpful.
6. Question: Where would compost go?
   1. Watsons, our current partner. Industrial scale windrow composting operation.
7. Question: Can we have an on campus use for composting/composting taking place on campus?
   1. Allen Masters said that campus programs for small scale windrow composting are being discussed. A wood chipper has been purchased and may be able to contribute by creating mulch for planting beds. Some of the compost could go to student garden projects.
8. Campus green buildings conversation with Bahar continuing through next semester, may include a class on existing building projects.
9. Transportation conversations with TAPS Alt-Trans coordinator working on an umbrella program to create a strategy for a campus-wide bike plan.

**3.  Important Dates**

1. None Discussed

**4.   Old Business**

1. STARS gap task force update from Megan Walker-Radtke. The group wants to use content analysis to determine which syllabi can contribute to our academic points. Discussion of the process followed. Gathering the syllabi is presenting the largest challenge. Over 9,600 courses to analyze. Working with a graduate student of Les Thiele to determine content to look for and consider contextual analysis. Some courses will need to be addressed by the team, while some will be clear yes/no classes.
   1. Otherwise the task force is looking at points that could be gained and determining how to approach earning them.
   2. The next meeting of the task force will be in January.
   3. Ravi has agreed to join the committee and offer assistance.
2. Renewable energy topic from last meeting yielded a letter to Curtis Reynolds to express the committee's commitment to renewable energy resources improvement and expansion on campus.
3. John Lawson and Dustin Stephany will come in February to the committee’s meeting.
4. -Following up regarding honoring Chris Machen’s support of the committee: Anna Prizzia suggested a donation to St. Francis pet care. Possibly offsetting the carbon emissions through We Are Neutral. Volunteers requested by Chair Cataldo: Kitty Emory, Ruth Steinberg volunteered their effort.
5. At previous meeting parking privatization was discussed.
   1. A statement or report from all committees has been solicited. What should be included?
      1. Pro-privatization arguments have included installation of solar panels, electric car charging stations, apps, etc.
      2. Biggest problem is that private companies need to make profit. In order to garner profit, they will need to expand and increase automobile traffic. This is opposed to our goal of reducing traffic on campus.
      3. The plan does not consider possible future changes to sustainability best practices.
   2. We need to act to encourage alternative transportation (walking, cycling, etc.)
      1. Expand bicycle parking
      2. Expand carpool parking
      3. Etc.
   3. EX: Chicago has a 75 year parking contract and ended up significantly underselling their parking resources. It is difficult to predict pricing and demand. Parking pricing rose significantly under privatization there.
   4. Need to consider the possible cost impact on lower income employees and students, effect on equity on campus
   5. Need to consider if this is a money-maker (parking) or is it a service to the campus community.
   6. A private company is not needed to bring in sustainable improvements, UF could easily implement them.
   7. Mitigation costs under a contract with fixed parking space numbers (fees to build new buildings, etc) may significantly increase under a private contract.
   8. The cost of oil over the next 50 years may increase significantly the cost of gasoline, making single occupancy vehicle travel impossible for many
6. -the sharing economy should also be considered, this has the possibility to significantly reduce vehicle traffic on campus, reducing the need for parking spots
7. -committee goals discussed
8. -which goal should be focused on next (can be addressed at january meeting to move forward)?
9. -Prairie project could have a deadline if we decide to revamp the program. mwr attending a conference in january and we will evaluate once she returns. mwr will discuss her experience at the next meeting.
10. -ruth steinberg broached a discussion of the committee’s priorities and project implementation on campus and how effective our efforts are if we are only implementing changes to planning documents. can the committee request reports from around campus on energy efficiency, water use, building efficiency, etc. Perhaps a stand alone document that includes all of the sustainability components in the campus master plan aggregated in one document.
11. -the committee will revisit these issues at the january meeting.

**5.  New Business**

1. Matt Williams announced the megan and liz have been preparing presentations on sustainability topics. we will build a library of presentations that can be quickly put together for discussion.

**6. Announcements**

1. No Announcements

Adjourned 10:50am.

Next meeting:  Thursday, January th at 10:00am