UF Sustainability Committee Meeting

10:00am

Meeting called to order at 10:10am by Chair Cataldo

Stadium Communications Conference Room 316

Attendees

Tara Cataldo

Matthew Williams

Linda Bobroff

Paul Mueller

Kyle Rodriguez

Megan Walker-Radtke

Liz Storn

Jacob Adams

1. **Discussion and Approval of Minutes from October Meeting** – No Quorum
2. **Update from OOS**
   1. Sustainability was mentioned in President Fuchs’ first speech yesterday
   2. COO is working to complete strategic planning process. OOS is aligning with this process at this time.
   3. OOS is now locking in Earth Month scheduling for April. We are planning weekly events during the month.
   4. The composting pilot in Gator Dining at the racquet club is rolling out. That will bring the number of locations for composting on campus to four.
   5. STARS, GHG, Audubon, Tree Campus USA are all still being compiled
   6. Question: How does the composting work?
      1. For now the composting is handled by the staff at the facilities, both pre- and post-consumer materials.
      2. Plans are in place to begin pushing composting to students through an education campaign.
      3. Brief side discussion of Gainesville/Alachua County composting programs. One is in the works, but may be a year or more before roll-out.
   7. OOS has not yet been invited to meet with Dr. Fuchs. We expect an invitation at some point soon.
3. **Important Dates**
   1. Public Interest Environmental Conference at Levin College of Law is coming up on February 12-14. The conference is free for all UF faculty, students, and staff.
   2. Conservation and Development Conference. March 25-27 on campus
   3. Extension’s Sustainable Floridians - April 15-16 on campus
   4. FESC is hosting a research workshop in Tampa on May 20-21
4. **Old Business**
   1. STARS: Megan Walker-Radtke is making progress on collecting syllabi for content analysis. Graduate student Seaton Tarrant will be assisting with the data analysis. We expect definite yes/no courses and some that will need to be evaluated by hand. We will also be evaluating the number of students exposed to sustainability related learning outcomes. Sustainability related academic research will be collected and presented for evaluation as well.
      1. Also need to answer the question: Does the university have an open access policy to research? No, but it is a priority to for the university library committee’s agenda.
      2. A STARS Gaps task force meeting will be called by MWR shortly.
   2. Chris Machen Recognition: No meeting has occurred, but one is planned for next week.
   3. Prairie Project
      1. Megan Walker-Radtke attended the Piedmont Ponderosa Training Workshop to learn about the Prairie Project and to gain insight into how to improve the program.
      2. Is a task force from the UFSC needed to assist with revamping the program? The current plan is to bring together a group of PP fellows and perhaps some members of the UFSC to meet to begin planning the PP for May sometime.
      3. In the past Prairie Creek Lodge has been used. Austin Cary Forest may be an option as well.
      4. We may hold departmental faculty meetings this year to try and improve faculty response to the call for attendees.
   4. Campus Master Plan
      1. This will be a standing agenda item for the committee to discuss. We need to keep momentum building for possible changes to suggest within the 5-year update cycle.
      2. Plan to create a OneDrive shared folder to track the progress through committee member rotations was discussed.
         1. Potential issues of the web platform discussed. The native desktop application does not suffer from the same issues and should be a good resource.
      3. For long-term recommendations, should we work to create a singular sustainability component, or should we work to revise each section individually to address sustainability?
         1. The general consensus of the discussion is that it would be most effective to include sustainability language in each section so that it is less likely to be ignored.
         2. Possibility suggested of a hybrid approach that would have sustainability woven in throughout the master plan and an individual section to address more general sustainability issues.
         3. Linda Dixon’s suggestion was to take the approach of working sustainability in each section of the document, possibly including an index that shows where sustainability related topics can be located throughout the document.
         4. Purchasing protocols in the MP are being modified a bit late. For instance, the fee for non-hybrid vehicles are being reworked. We have an opportunity to give input on an alternative.
            1. Can we create a carrot-over-stick program?

The old stick of the fee can affect smaller colleges, or other departments that lack funding.

Can a sharing economy be developed to allow resources to be used more efficiently?

* + 1. Next Month John Lawson and Dustin Stephany will address the committee.
    2. Discussion of the solar array being installed at the VA.
       1. Are we at UF unable to do the same thing?
          1. Power purchasing regulation at UF creates problems.
          2. Some parking garages are not coded for the additional infrastructure needs of a solar array.

1. **New Business** – None Discussed
2. **Announcements**
   1. Kyle Rodriguez discussed his capstone project of a proposal to the Gainesville city council to fund ongoing improvements of older rental properties. He is working in partnership with Gainesville Loves Mountains.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

**Next meeting** to be held on Thursday, February 12th, 2015 in the UAA Communications Conference Room 316 at 10:00am.