Sustainability Committee Meeting 11/20/2014

Thursday, March 12th, 2015

Communications Conference Room - Stadium 316

Called to order at 10:00am

Attendees:

Tara Cataldo

Matthew Williams

Ruth Steiner

Mark Robinson

Connie Nicklin

Megan Walker-Radtke

Les Thiele

Jackie Ayers

Allen Masters

Ravi Srinivasan (Call-In)

1. Office of Sustainability Update – Matt Williams
2. Things are progressing well at the office
3. Megan has nearly completed the GHG
4. Princeton Review ranking information has been submitted
5. Sierra Club ranking is coming up on March 20th
6. No more deadlines for STARS are done until we submit for 2.0
7. April is Earth Month
   1. Campus Earth Day is April 8th
   2. H2OH! water event April 15th,
   3. Campus Collection day April 22nd
8. Prairie Project takes place May 4th
9. Presentation from John Lawson: Energy Overview (see attached)
   1. This will be an overview of energy projects going on across campus. John encouraged the committee to ask any questions as they come up in an open forum format.
   2. Topics covered include
      1. UF utilities
      2. Percentage of HVAC Energy in our Buildings
      3. Carbon Action Plan
      4. Energy Initiatives
      5. Building Selection
      6. Initiative & Lighting Projects
      7. Measuring
      8. Retro-Commissioning
      9. Future Plans
   3. Questions:
      1. RE: Carbon Offsets. Should we spend money to mitigate carbon offset needs? Will the estimated $3 million dollars budgeted in the carbon neutrality plan be better used somewhere else other than carbon offsets?
         1. Carbon offsets will likely be necessary no matter the funding available. Being able to achieve carbon neutrality in the time frame proposed (2025) may not be possible, no matter the funding. Things like commuter miles that cannot be reduced come into play as well. A voluntary offset program for commuters is being planned at the moment.
      2. How much efficiency can be achieved by retrofits?
         1. The primary issue is budgeting. Without the funds needed to fully retrofit existing buildings, it is an uphill battle.
      3. Is a revolving loan fund plan in place?
         1. A plan for a revolving fund is being developed. Details need to be worked out before a formal proposal can be put forward.
      4. RE: HVAC cycling. Are mold/damage a concern with the full cycling of HVAC that exists?
         1. A plan is in place to mitigate this factor. When conditions are right, it is not a concern. When conditions are not favorable, the system will not completely shut down to avoid mold/damage.
      5. Ravi Srinivasan took a moment to compliment the work and transparency of John Lawson, Dustin Jackson, Dustin Stephanie, and the rest of the utilities team.
      6. Are there any buildings that are doing particularly well?
         1. Powell Hall saw a 30% energy reduction after operations sequencing was put in place.
      7. Alternative Energy Briefing Requested
         1. 330Kw solar on campus
         2. 250Kw solar off campus
         3. Total .11% of annual consumption
         4. To reach 5% alternative energy on campus, a significant increase in funding is required.
      8. Duke Contract
         1. Three options exist:
            1. Continue existing steam contract up to 40 years
            2. Buy CoGen plant
            3. Ask Duke to take away CoGen plant and give us our land back
         2. No decision has been made
         3. This is entirely independent of our contract for grid energy
         4. Does a grid contract exist?
            1. No.
      9. Is the utilities/energy database open to the public?
         1. No public portal exists. For now, a manual request is required. A public portal is being considered/planned for the future. A limited access system may be put in place before a more widely available
10. New Business
    1. Discussion of Power Setting Policy for computers on campus.
       1. Why hasn’t a policy been established for university owned computers?
          1. Pushback from different entities on campus has hindered progress.
       2. A policy would be effective because it would reduce the amount of energy all computers left on all the time on campus. Sleep mode is now a very effective option and software now allows IT to control cycles of wake/sleep for computers.
       3. Matt Williams presented some information about this topic in a power point (attached).
          1. Special software is being installed on all computers to assist with power cycling/updates control.
          2. Savings could be significant with a change of computers going into standby after 30 minutes and screen shutdown at 10 minutes.
          3. OOS will be able to pull reports on energy consumption to monitor the progress of the system.
       4. How are privacy issues addressed in this system?
          1. Because it is a university resource, there is no expectation of privacy.
    2. STARS Task Force has completed looking at learning outcomes. 33 degree programs on campus have been identified with sustainability learning outcomes. For graduate programs, we reviewed each learning outcome individually to determine if they met the necessary criteria from AASHE.
       1. Discussion of the protocol being implemented:
          1. AASHE has updated the requirements and has changed out numbers from previous submissions
          2. We need to educate the faculty to ensure that we accurately capture learning outcomes that may not be being addressed
    3. Chris Machen
       1. We have submitted a nomination and are awaiting review
          1. Political protocols may interfere here. Chris Machen has been contacted to ensure that she is willing to accept and attend the rewards ceremony.
       2. Shall former committee members be asked to donate to the opportunity scholarship?
          1. A letter will be drafted by Chair Cataldo to solicit these donations
          2. Jacob Adams has procured a list of all former members of the committee
    4. Prairie Project will be the fourth and fifth of May. We have recovered the old mailing list and are about to send a request to previous participants to assist with planning. Shortly after we will put out the call for applications.
    5. Master Plan suggestions: Matt Williams will establish a tracking log in OneDrive to monitor the committee’s progress.
       1. MP Steering Committee is having its final meeting soon and then we will be able to review the final iteration of this round of planning.
    6. Infrastructure Committee met and our suggestions to the committee have been relayed by Chair Cataldo.
    7. The Committee on Committees has been reformed. They have requested input from us regarding any changes we may want to make to the Sustainability Committee
       1. No major concerns were brought up during the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:46am