Sustainability Committee Meeting 4/9/2015

Meeting called to order 10:05am

Stadium Communications Conference Room 316

Attendees

Tara Cataldo

Matt Williams

Damian Adams

Mark Robinson

Megan Walker-Radtke

Connie Nicklin

Allen Masters

Jackie Ayers

Theresa Badurek

Ravi Srinivasan

Minutes for March and February unanimously approved.

1. OOS Update
   1. Review of Campus Earth Day Event
      1. Estimated to have been twice the size of last year’s event
      2. Charlie Lane gave the speech and committed to:
         1. Increasing campus e-vehicle fleet by 10%
         2. Tools to eliminate junk mail on campus
         3. Improve and increase on campus ride sharing options
         4. Improve campus composting/waste diversion programs
      3. 19 awards given at Champions for Change Awards
         1. Chris Machen recognized yesterday and was very pleased with the donations given to Florida Opportunity Scholars and St. Francis Pet Care
            1. If anyone wants to, additional donations can be made directly to the organizations
   2. Campus Earth Month
      1. 4/15 – Water Day
      2. 4/22 – Campus Collection Day
      3. 4/11 – Orange & Blue Game (working on waste issues in stadium)
   3. Compost pilot running in three buildings working to collect paper towels for composting. Estimated that several hundred tons could be diverted to compost
   4. STARS
      1. We are winding down the academic portion.
      2. We have submitted for Princeton Review and Sierra Club rankings
      3. We will be working over the summer to complete our actual STARS submission
   5. Prairie Project will not be occurring in May due to a very busy schedule at the OOS
      1. Working towards an August date
2. Old Business
   1. Campus Master Plan
      1. Steering Committee is winding down
      2. We should see mark-ups/edits after that
      3. Tara has created a document for the committee to work on to provide additional suggestions
         1. This table will track changes by stating the policy, showing the changed policy, and explaining the need for the change
         2. Continuing committee members will be invited to edit the document
      4. LVL Tree Removal Discussion
         1. Damian Adams attended the meeting and provided an update
            1. A new building, the Nexus Program, is proposed to be built on a location that has a heritage Bluff Oak on it
            2. Approximately 80 people attended the normally small meeting
            3. The tree is approximately 200 years old and is considered a heritage breed
            4. The building is intended to be a showcase building for the architects – they were asked to draw up plans to save the Bluff Oak

The committee has unanimously voted to refuse the architect’s plans to destroy the Bluff Oak along with approximately 30 other trees

* + - * 1. University of Michigan moved a similar tree some time ago at a cost of $400,000 – making moving the tree prohibitively expensive
        2. Master Plan would have to be modified for an approximately 10’ extension of the building
        3. The students in attendance were well spoken and presented about the ethic of sustainability, the value of the Bluff Oak, and the importance of prioritizing trying to save the tree and its relationship to UF’s commitment to sustainability
        4. Faculty also spoke, as well as arborists who discussed the tradition of building around trees around the world and locally in Gainesville
        5. The plans for the building overall were sustainability minded and positive
      1. Discussion of dynamics of funding and priorities for building construction on campus
      2. The committee will consider requesting an overlay be created to track locations of important trees and other species on campus, as well as infrastructure located underground – one does not currently exist
      3. Relocating the building enough to save the tree is not possible due to existing water and steam lines underground

1. New Business
   1. Discussion of 2014-15 Goals
      1. The committee was not able to offer assistance to the office on GROW planning
      2. The committee did assist with STARS submissions and will continue to offer support
      3. The committee was not able to make significant progress on identifying campus sustainability policies needing updates
      4. The committee did support Prairie Project Planning
      5. Master Planning progress was also noted
   2. Electing a new chair discussed
      1. Discussion of whether Summer meetings should be held for the entire committee
      2. Discussion of reworking appointments and scheduling to avoid large turnovers
      3. Chair Cataldo will not offer herself for Chair again
         1. She nominated Mark Robinson
         2. No other nominations were offered by the committee
      4. Mark Robinson was unanimously voted as Chair for the 2015-16 session
      5. Additional discussion of the committee process on campus and Faculty Senate business
   3. For the summer, if any issues come up Chair Cataldo will offer her assistance in setting up meetings
   4. Chair Cataldo will look into replacing members of the committee who have not been engaged throughout the session
      1. Criteria for who may be excluded was discussed – perhaps those who have attended half or more meetings
      2. Student members who do not engage should be removed and reappointed as well
      3. Expectations for members will be disclosed and discussed at the first meeting in August
2. This will be the last meeting until August.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08am