University of Florida Sustainability Committee

10/09/2015 1:00-3:00pm

Stadium TSS Conference Rm 410

Attendees:

Allen Masters (Remote) [Resource Member]

Derek Barber (Remote)

Liz Storn [Resource Member]

Oppong Hemeng [Resource Member}

Damian Adams (Remote)

Stella Heekin

Rebecca Blazquez

Matthew Williams

Dustin Stephany [Resource Member]

Tara Cataldo

Mark Robinson

Tim Vinson

Ravi Srinivasan

Les Thiele

Kitty Emery

Ruth Steiner

Ann Lindell

David Looney

Minutes:

1. Introduction by Mark Robinson, Chair. Chair Robinson welcomes everyone to the committee.
   1. Mark Robinson (MR) Introduces the new Sustainable Committee Portal at: [sustainable.ufl.edu/scportal](http://sustainable.ufl.edu/scportal). The link and password to the portal will be emailed shortly following the meeting. The portal contains meeting minutes, agendas and relevant documents.
   2. MR asked the committee members to introduce themselves and discuss why they are here and what they bring to the committee.
      1. Members introduced themselves
   3. Discussion of quorum protocol
      1. MR recommends half of members be present to comprise quorum
      2. Committee unanimously affirmed quorum as 9 members
   4. Discussion of attendance definition
      1. MR recommends that call-in or video conference would count
      2. Committee agreed unanimously
   5. Discussion of attendance policy
      1. 2 unexcused absences will demand dismissal from the committee
         1. Unexcused absences definition confirmed as no call/no show/no excuse
            1. After two missed meetings, a replacement will be requested
            2. This policy is congruent with existing Faculty Senate protocol
         2. For those unable to make the meeting due to scheduling what will happen? Can they participate in subcommittees?
            1. Because of changing schedules these absences will be dealt with on a case by case basis
         3. We are working to avoid changing the schedule of the meeting unless deemed necessary by the Chair
   6. Location of committee information discussed
      1. All information will be available on the new portal soon
   7. Discussion of Mission Statement
      1. Created by committee two years ago due to a need to refocus
2. The committee’s purpose had changed and a new mission statement was created
   * 1. Discussion of Committee Goals
        1. A summer task force was created in 2014 to guide the committee by creating goals to work towards
        2. Review of the list of goals remaining from last committee cycle
        3. Discussion of the role of the committee and appropriate goal setting
           1. Reviewing proposed buildings?
           2. Transportation committee advising?
           3. Implementation of Campus Master Plan?
     2. Discussion of committee turnover and appointment cycle
        1. New members should be identified by the end of the month for next year’s appointments
        2. Suggestion from Matthew Williams to set dates to stay on top of member rotation as well as recalibrating the rotation schedule
           1. Fora tracks the current rotation
           2. Those who are rotating out will need to apply to be reappointed
           3. The committee focuses on appointing staff members for non-senate appointments but may appoint faculty who are deemed important to the committee’s goals
3. Sustainability Office update
   1. Website update discussed
      1. Some items have been migrated
      2. The majority of content will be updated with new material soon
      3. Tara Cataldo will work with Allison Vitt on insuring important documentation is maintained
   2. Communication strategy has been reworked to focus on social media
      1. We have seen vastly improved response rates
      2. Email strategy is being reworked as well
   3. Prairie Project over the summer was a success, was held in August
   4. Sustainable Food Summit planning is underway with other large scale campuses seeking to address issues with Aramark and Sysco in order to improve sustainability in institutional food service
   5. Gator Gears bike rental program rolled out for Fall 2015 semester
      1. All bikes were sold out and a waiting list established
      2. Goal to reduce abandoned bikes and create cyclists
      3. Free maintenance for participants
   6. Discussions with Student Government to evaluate possible other bicycle programming options (bikeshare, bike library, etc)
   7. VP Lane’s EV goals discussed
      1. Megan Walker-Radtke has lead on program
      2. Ongoing discussions on what types of vehicles will be available
      3. Negotiations with possible vendors for fleet pricing
   8. Commuter carbon offset program preparing to roll-out
      1. Average commuting emissions offsets have been calculated
         1. Approx $9/yr
      2. Goal to empower individual action to affect campus sustainability
      3. Survey over the summer yielded over 900 responses with primarily positive feedback
      4. Goal to roll-out by oct. 21 sustainable transportation fair
   9. One Less Car campaign is being rebranded to “What Moves You?”
      1. Goal to reach a larger audience and encourage choosing the most sustainable and appropriate transportation options
   10. Healthy Gators is regrouping and focusing on outside events instead of hosting their own events.
       1. Jane emery is no longer with the program, which may be a challenge to overcome
       2. Maureen Miller and Elaine Turner have taken over
   11. Football season underway and our zero waste programs are in full swing
       1. Jacob Adams works on Tailgator
       2. Allison Vitt on Alumni Tailgate
       3. Liz Storn, Oppong Hemeng, Matt Williams working inside stadium with Navy ROTC to sort waste
          1. Achieving good results and expect to see significant improvement
   12. As of Monday the Office of Sustainability has a new boss, associate vp craig hill
       1. OOS, TAPS, O'Connell Center, Small Business & Vendor Diversity
       2. Known at Boston University as a strong ally for sustainability
   13. Sustainability hut is being redesigned to allow all members of our team to transport and set it up
   14. STARS 2.0 submission is nearly ready
   15. All interns at OOS are paid and working on specific programs
   16. A list of dates for upcoming events will be sent out soon
4. Committee Goals Brainstorming Discussion
   1. MR expressed a desire to establish a power management recommendation for university computers
      1. Ravi Srinivasan agreed and indicated that some research has been done by his group
      2. He offered to head a subcommittee to address these issues
   2. Should the SC commit to attend campus events (sust transpo fair tailgator, etc)?
   3. Establish policy for SC to issue more recommendations/position statements to the VP’s office
   4. Organize a social event for sustainability groups at UF and in the community to discuss topics important to us all
   5. Potential to create or become involved in a sustainability forum.
      1. Do we create our own or start a branch of an existing organization?
      2. Create a community listserv
         1. Self service sign-up
         2. Information on sustainability topics and events from community and campus organizations
   6. OOS Green Office Certification Program
      1. Currently have four interns developing the program with Liz Storn
      2. Goal to establish an interview style model where questions will be addressed ahead of time and then perform an in-office interview and evaluation
      3. Hope is to create a more interactive and connected sustainability community on campus
      4. A pilot is currently underway
      5. Plan to roll-out a first group of office for certification after end of Fall
      6. Still determining who will issue the certification
      7. Hope to include LEED-EB criteria as well
   7. Sustainable event certification is being expanded for department and organizations on campus in addition to student organizations
   8. Tim Vinson suggests establishing tasks/goals at the end of each meeting
      1. MR highly approved of this suggestion
   9. Discussion of LEED-EB
      1. Ravi Srinivasan: why LEED and not another system?
         1. Dustin Stephany addressed the question: he is currently evaluating these options and will bring a presentation to the committee when more progress has been made.
   10. Les Thiele suggests circulating a list of areas of involvement for the members of the committee
       1. Members could create sub-committees/task-forces and put their energy towards issues they are interested in
       2. Les Thiele expressed a personal interest in student outreach and involvement efforts
          1. Stella Heekin offered to participate in this topic as well
       3. Can create a form to gather the possible topics (Tara Cataldo volunteered)
   11. David Looney offered to join a sub-committee to establish an overarching university policy guide for wide ranging sustainability issues.
       1. according to MWR there was a set of documents created in 2009 that have not been updated since
       2. MR will join the sub-committee with DL
   12. Kitty Emery discussed needing to define what a tangible effort will be for items such as B & C (reference agenda). Offered herself for a sub-committee on these topics
   13. Ruth Steiner suggests transportation systems and infrastructure be addressed by the committee. Also building and landscaping/urban-planning issues. Recommends re-establishing the Sustainable Transportation Committee.
       1. MWR discussed the ongoing conversations with TAPS about which office(s) will address these issues
   14. Rebecca Blazquez offered to join B policy committee
   15. Stella Heekin offered to join communications committee
   16. MWR suggests the SC consider offering to take an advisory role with student groups on campus
   17. Derek Barber suggested considering sustainability for offsite offices
       1. MWR recommended consulting with the (florida greening something group?)
       2. Ruth Steiner suggested that the extension offices becoming green certified would be a positive goal
       3. MWR brings up the fact that many extension offices are owned in part by counties
          1. DB indicated that approaching the county with potential money-saving opportunities as a strategy
   18. DS discussed a program he heard of about a program at a NC school to create a training video for new faculty & staff to engender a unified vision of sustainability on campus
       1. MW discussed the volume of trainings upon his hire and suggested that a video of this nature may be ineffective as it can be lost in the flood of other obligations for a new hire
   19. OH offered his athletics expertise and expressed an interest in engaging in a more holistic set of sustainability topics
   20. TC offered to gather a database of existing policies
   21. Ann Lindell offered assistance to TC and to engage with the communication and outreach committee
5. MR, TC, JA will develop google form to survey committee members and also asked for engagement from possible sub-committee chairs before the end of next week.

NOTE: Ruth Steiner out for next meeting.