UF Sustainability Meeting

01-11-2018 12:30pm

Reitz Union Rm 2340

Attendance

Matt Williams

Dustin Stephany

Ravish Paul

John Duncan

Chris Martinez

Hannah Ulloa

Ariel Pomputius

Phone

Amy Stein

Hardev Sandhu

Mark Robinson

Lauren Berkow

Les Thiele

Liz Storn

Ernesto Escoto

1. Approve minutes from 12/14/2017 meeting
   1. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Lauren Berkow Introduction
   1. Member of Dept. of Anesthesia
   2. At UF approximately 1.5yrs, moved from Johns Hopkins
   3. Working to increase hospital and College of Medicine engagement in sustainability
      1. Has put together a working group
      2. Encouraging hospital to join Practice Greenhealth
         1. Can then apply for sustainability awards
      3. Hospital will participate in Campus Earth Day, April 11
   4. Excited to be member of committee representing the hospital and College of Medicine
3. Office of Sustainability Updates
   1. Transportation Survey - Matt Williams
      1. Please participate, this information will be used to make decisions about alternative transportation over the next 15-20 years
      2. Please encourage your colleagues as well
      3. We hope to bring voices that are sustainability minded to the survey
      4. Part of Strategic Development Plan project; transportation is a massive part of this growth plan
      5. UF’s first comprehensive Transportation Master plan
      6. Will add link to Office of Sustainability website and OoS will advertise on social media
   2. EV Fleet Incentive
      1. Goes into effect Feb. 1
      2. Members of the committee encouraged to engage their departments to consider this program
      3. Updated Approved Vehicle List is being updated and will be available Feb. 1
      4. Please email Matthew Williams directly with any questions
   3. Green Team Film Series - Food for Thought (Dustin Stephany)
      1. This will be a pilot series showing documentaries on various sustainability subjects
      2. Will be held 12-1:00pm each fourth tuesday at Matthews Suite in Reitz Union
      3. First session will be focusing on energy
   4. Save the Date - Campus Earth Day is April 11
4. STARS Updates
   1. Student Research (Les Thiele)
      1. Working with his GA and undergrad interns to develop an active learning program for the fall to place teams of undergrads as research assistants for faculty doing community based sustainability oriented research
         1. Will be a pilot for next fall and next spring
         2. Currently researching best practices
         3. No financial benefit currently, but dean and provost are seeking alumni donors to offer funding in the future
         4. Students will receive credits for semester-long independent study
   2. Interdisciplinary Research (Chris Martinez)
      1. Provost’s office does not have any specific language
      2. President’s strategic planning website mentions interdisciplinary and team scholarship participation in tenure promotion criteria
         1. Chris Martinez will approach the planners and find out more about this aspect
      3. Some other universities have used strategic planning content in their STARS submissions
         1. Matthew Williams - STARS is becoming increasingly more stringent with their reviews and we want to achieve highly in each credit we claim so that it can stand up to scrutiny
   3. Deadline for STARS submission is June 30
      1. Sustainability Committee Members should have their final input on credits prepared for the May 10, 2018 meeting of the committee
      2. In order to count, any activity must take place by the end of the current semester
5. Paper Policy Recommendation Updates
   1. Liz Storn contacted procurement and found they had previously advised campus that they had an affordable 30% post-consumer recycled paper (FSC and Green Seal certified) option
      1. Procurement is inquiring with Office Max/Depot to determine the location of logging for their papers so that this can considered by the committee
         1. The committee could reach out to a School of Forestry faculty member to inquire on whether this can be determined and how this could affect sustainability related to paper purchasing
         2. John Duncan will inquire with Damian Adams to present to the committee on this topic
      2. The standard Office Depot paper, which is the most purchased paper on campus, is actually more expensive than the 30% recycled option
   2. John Duncan contacted FIU regarding their paper purchasing policy
      1. Their sustainability committee began the process on their campus as well
         1. A member of their committee was in the procurement office, making the process easier for them
      2. Sustainability Office stated that they saw very little pushback or concern from the campus at large when the program was implemented
      3. They use a 30% post-consumer paper; no consideration was made for location of logging, etc
      4. They also work with Office Max/Office Depot so this process could potentially be implemented at UF
   3. John Duncan - The FIU policy seems to be a strong example that the committee could model its approach on. What recommendation does the committee have for procurement?
      1. Matt Williams noted that procurement once had a sustainable purchasing policy but it was not enforceable and was downgraded to a set of recommendations
      2. The policy should include a note to purchase 30% or higher post-consumer recycled paper, so that higher recycled content rate papers can be purchased
      3. Liz Storn will request a member of procurement join a future committee meeting for a follow-up discussion
6. Upcoming Events
   1. Water Institute conference is occurring in February 6-7
      1. Covers all kinds of water related issues
      2. Will send a link to the committee
   2. PIEC Law Conference is focusing on climate change
      1. Free to UF staff, faculty and students, including meals
      2. Occurs in February 8-10
      3. Amy Stein will send a link to the committee with more information
7. Champions for Change Awards (Allison Vitt)
   1. This is an annual awards program to recognize those who have worked to advance sustainability and health issues on campus
      1. Open to faculty, students and staff as well as groups on campus
   2. We typically hold this event on Campus Earth Day (April 11, 2018)
   3. We seek to identify the top five candidates to award for both sustainability and health initiatives
   4. Last year the Sustainability Committee advised on the selection process and helped to choose the awardees
      1. Nominations will be compiled and distributed to the committee ahead of the March 8th committee meeting
      2. Committee Members will choose their top five submissions and submit to Jacob Adams who will compile the top entries for the 3/8 meeting
      3. Any ties will be discussed and broken at the 3/8 meeting
   5. Nominations will open by January 22
      1. Nominations will close February 23
      2. The committee is encouraged to spread awareness of the nomination process
8. Sustainability Language within performance assessment
   1. John Duncan will determine what types of language may be able to be implemented
      1. He will follow up with Ariel Pomputius and Terry Harpold before next meeting
9. Meeting Adjourned 1:29pm