Attendance

Ariel Pomputius

Matt Williams

Madison Smith

Leah Dosal

Ravish Paul

Maya Patel

Phone

Ravi Srinivasan

Mark Robinson

Ann Lindell

Hardev Sandhu

Ernesto Escoto

Amy Stein

Liz Storn

1. Approval of 01-11-2018 Minutes
   1. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Earth Day
      1. Near signing contract for Paul Hawken, who will be our earth day keynote speaker
         1. His new book Drawdown is recommended reading
         2. Matt Williams just saw him speak at a climate conference and was very impressed
         3. Details of scheduling are still being confirmed
         4. Office will be purchasing several hundred copies of Drawdown; Sustainability Committee members will be receiving copies
      2. This year will feature many days of events coordinated across campus groups during the week of April 9-14 (UF Earth Week)
   2. Champions for Change Awards
      1. Will be scheduled during Earth Week
      2. Please remember to nominate Champions for Change candidates
         1. Nominations are currently open
         2. Office will send out materials for committee members to share in their departments
   3. FL State Bike Month - March 2018
      1. Events intended to increase cycle commuting to and on campus by students, faculty and staff
      2. Some events in partnership with the City of Gainesville
      3. Calendar of events will be released soon
   4. Collection Day - April 18, 2018 7:30am-1:00pm
      1. Twice yearly event to aid community in properly disposing of difficult to sort items
      2. Community partners will be involved
      3. More details will follow at March meeting
3. STARS Updates
   1. Ann Lindell - Application for Open Access Funds is now live, a link has been provided to the committee via email
   2. Ravi Srinivasan - UF/City of Gainesville Research Grant could be included in submission
      1. Some others may be more tenuously qualified
      2. Ravi will write up his proposal for these for Office of Sustainability review
      3. Ravi suggested that there may be opportunities to include some interdisciplinary support programs
         1. Some other universities have submitted similar programs
      4. Hardev Sandhu will share information about programs in IFAS that may qualify for these credits
   3. Please remember that any information for our submission must be submitted by the April meeting
      1. Matt Williams - we are currently planning for a June STARS submission, however, a December submission may be a possibility
4. Paper Policy
   1. Matt Williams has spoken with Lisa Deal from Procurement Services
      1. She will plan to join the committee to address these issues at the March meeting
   2. Damian Adams and Chris Demers have come to speak to the paper sourcing and forestry issues previously discussed by the committee
      1. The committee was given calendars produced with wood from sustainably managed working forests
      2. Studies have been done on the benefits of working forests to landowners and to society
         1. A large benefit to society is water conservation
         2. Landowners get money to help manage the forests
      3. Chris Demers manages a land stewardship program
         1. He is also an expert in forest certification systems
      4. FSC Certified vs SFI Certified (or seeking a paper with both)
         1. FSC forests may not necessarily be located in Florida
         2. UF is a land-grant university with a mission to improve agriculture in Florida
         3. SFI/tree-farm program has many more sources of pulp wood located in Florida
         4. Southern Pine Silviculture is often not compatible with FSC standards
         5. FSC focuses heavily on illegal logging, which is an uncommon issue in the US and Canada
         6. FSC auditing costs are often prohibitively expensive for small land-owners
         7. SFI works to protect native species and reduce use of pesticides and herbicides
         8. SFI was founded by the domestic timber industry, which has given it a reputation as potentially problematic
            1. It has worked to shed that image and has become more independent in recent years with government, audubon and sierra club members on national and state boards
      5. Recommendation from guest speakers to have UF focus less on FSC certification and consider supporting more SFI and Florida based papers
         1. This has the potential to help keep southeast forests well-managed and healthy by keeping funding local
      6. It was noted that the Austin Carey teaching forest at UF was unable to achieve FSC certification due to the strict standards
         1. Partially due to the types of activities on the property and their bookkeeping practices
      7. John Duncan - The committee is seeking to include this information in our decision in making a paper recommendation
         1. The committee would like to be able to recommend a partially recycled paper that still supports local forestry, with the intent to maximize the environmental benefit
         2. Damian Adams would like to see a paper that supports local producers chosen over other papers
            1. Many papers include an estimate of the percentage of certified sourcing, with many papers having SFI certification or a mix of FSC
         3. Liz Storn - it seems that many office paper sources do not include location specific sources
         4. Matt Williams - A larger question is: what is the goal of the committee? Is it to support the university as a land grant institution, and its priorities as such, or to do the most good (or least harm)?
         5. Damian Adams expressed his concern that the effect of large institutions like UF moving away from these locally sourced papers could have a negative impact on small land managers that could lead to further deforestation
         6. Chris Demers - It is important to not exclude other certifications in favor of FSC simply because it is the most stringent
      8. Mark Robinson - What is Europe doing on these issues?
         1. Chris Demers - Europe is very green and requires products from outside of EU to be produced under their higher standards, including mills in Florida
            1. They use many of the certifications discussed by the committee
   3. Discussion of the information presented
      1. The committee committed to call for a minimum recycled content, some sort of certification requirement and a statement to encourage certification groups to improve their processes
      2. John Duncan will draft a statement for the committee to consider at the next meeting
5. Full-Time OPS Payment for Hurricane Irma (and future forced) Leave
   1. Faculty Senate is planning to submit a policy to pay for Hurricane Irma time off
   2. Additionally they will include OPS paid leave time and raise the minimum wage to $12/hr
   3. Also, they will limit OPS positions to 1 year before they will be transitioned to TEAMS positions
   4. Discussion of OPS needs at various departments and concerns about funding sources and operational bandwidth of proposed changes
      1. There may be exceptions based on time-limited projects and grant-funding stipulations
   5. Ernesto Escoto requested that a copy of the proposal documents be sent out to the committee
      1. John Duncan will send them out before the next meeting
   6. The committee may have an opportunity to make a comment, suggested change or endorsement of the proposal
   7. Ernest Escoto stated that there is a plan to bring the minimum wage for all hourly employees at UF to $15/hr within 3 years
      1. It is unknown if this would apply to hourly workers at contracted vendors, such as Aramark, who has pushed back strongly against the minimum wage increase
   8. The Sustainability Committee expresses general support of OPS wage increases and a process to place time limit on OPS position before transition to TEAMS positions
      1. Ariel Pomputius moved to adopt this position
      2. Madison Smith seconded the motion
      3. The committee voted unanimously in favor of adoption
6. Meeting adjourned at 2:09pm