UF Sustainability Committee Meeting

10/12/2017

12:30pm-2:00pm

Reitz Union Rm 3305

Attendance:

Chris Martinez

John Duncan

Allison Vitt

Oppong Hemeng

Matt Williams

Mark Robinson

Anne Lindell

Ariel Pomputius

Ravish Paul

Madison Smith

Nicholas Young

Phone:

Amy Stein

Hardev Ravish

Liz Storn

Ernesto Escoto

1. Approve Minutes from 09/21/2017
   1. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Discussion with Nicholas Young, who is working to establish a graduate student sustainability group on campus
   1. Working to bring students from all disciplines to the group to spread sustainability ideas and practices on campus and among graduate schools
      1. Focus on low-hanging fruit
      2. Address lack of communication between disciplines on sustainability activities
      3. Would like to present to other graduate programs in the near future
   2. His work in the Law School has helped them become the 5th greenest law school in the nation
   3. He is working with Matt Williams, Amy Stein and Terry Harpold as advisors on the project
   4. Amy Stein; Nick has spearheaded this idea and has just completed the necessary paperwork
      1. Expressed the importance of institutional buy-in for a project like this
      2. Suggested informal meetings between graduate groups to connect sustainability initiatives
      3. Request for suggestions for possible interested students from faculty on committee
   5. Discussion of adding a graduate student to committee through recommendation to Committee on Committees to update the Sustainability Committee charter
3. STARS: Next Steps
   1. Chair Duncan presented the topics brought by the Office of Sustainability in the prior meeting and how the committee may be able to contribute
   2. Open Access Fund for Research discussed
      1. New individual is in charge and is still getting her footing in the position
      2. Christy Shorey from Institutional Repository may be able to speak to the committee and discuss her ideas about what kind of support she may be able to offer
      3. Anne Lindell; new group in libraries, branding as ARC: data management
   3. Matt Williams; How does the committee feel like it would like to address this topic: sub-committees, individuals, points where support is needed?
      1. Chris Martinez; Do student organizations contribute to our STARS score
         1. Matt Williams; we currently receive full credit for student involvement
      2. Matt Williams; request to send link to committee to STARS report access for review
4. John Duncan; What are the goals for this committee?
   1. Working with Office of Sustainability to develop a general agenda for the remainder of the year, allowing for new ideas and projects to come up
   2. Suggests that the committee commit to make at least one general recommendation to the university; what kind of recommendation can the committee make?
      1. The Paper Policy work should be considered
      2. Amy Stein; recommendation to improve share of sustainable electricity for campus
         1. Law School will be unveiling their solar array October 24, 2017
         2. Mark Robinson; agrees that making a recommendation is an excellent goal
            1. Supports PV solar increase
            2. Recommends setting up sub-committees to drive progress
            3. Agreed to serve on sub-committee with Terry Harpold, if it is formed
            4. Would a program for solar energy fundraising through payroll deduction be possible?

Matt Williams; Yes, this may be possible, the existing commuting offset took ~1.5 years to be put in place

Can a letter be written suggesting that the university engage in more sustainable energy sources?

Matt Williams; recommendation to specifically target certain topics

* + - 1. Matt Williams; a recommendation for solar from the committee could help this issue
         1. There is no energy contract, other than a steam contract, that would affect UF’s ability to increase solar
         2. A report has been reviewed by VP Curtis Reynolds that recommended financial options for increasing solar on campus
         3. The Office of Sustainability may be able to offer use of its Foundation account to support a solar fundraising campaign
         4. UF Foundation clients are mostly the colleges, so individual colleges may be able to push campaigns for their alumni
         5. Because TAPS is a self-funded entity, it may be difficult to support a solar foundation fundraiser that improves parking lots
         6. Allison Vitt; UF Foundation doesn’t typically approve alumni targeted campaigns that are as specific as that being discussed

Recommends checking in with individual college development teams to pursue

* + - 1. Amy Stein; suggested establishing a UF Foundation/Alumni solar fundraising campaign
         1. Is there foundation resistance to approaching/targeting specific alumni who currently do not contribute?

Allison Vitt; this is potentially possible, however, the foundation is controlling over their contact lists, and those who have not given yet, are highly unlikely to donate in the future; may be worth offering it as a giving opportunity for all college alumni, reference annual giving officer for this information

* + - * 1. Could the committee target specific issues and provide specific advice on decision making?

Matt Williams; this is potentially a powerful move coming from the committee, however, there may be some push-back from other groups, depending on project/funding issues

* + - * 1. Is the topic of installing more electric vehicle chargers worth pursuing?

Matt Williams; the university is in the process of installing 10 additional chargers, including at the Law School breaking ground next week

Matt listed potential future locations

Discussion of locations, communication strategy, parking issues, charging protocols, etc

* + - * 1. Is energy efficiency in buildings a possible topic?

Ravish Paul; many projects are underway and have been examined, small efficiency upgrades do not receive much interest, larger projects are being considered now

Discussion of HVAC strategies, solar thermal conversations in the past, potential for solar thermal and PV in new projects

These strategies would need to be written into building standards codes

* + - 1. Ariel Pomputius; Are solar charging stations for tailgating and other events possible to be purchased?
         1. Matt Williams; there are concerns about aesthetics, installation locations, relative safety, gameday initiatives, etc would all need to be consulted
         2. Oppong Hemeng; requests have been made for renewable charging solutions in RV lots on game days; costs, liability issues have been discussed; still negotiating logistics

New UAA construction projects are likely to feature more solar

* + - 1. John Duncan; What specific items should be included in the committee’s recommendation to the university?
         1. Matt Williams; Dustin Stephany may be able to offer advice on prioritizing LEED certification points criteria to target

Sustainability Committee could work with other other committees to establish renewable energy building standards for future projects, create efficiencies

* + - * 1. Nicholas Young; a student led “UF Paris Accord” type document is being developed to encourage the university to establish these protocols
        2. Ernesto Escoto; the University’s pre-eminence initiative #7 aligns with these goals, this connection may be valuable to point out as the committee looks forward

Matt Williams; this is a strong idea

Ernesto Escoto will reach out Will Elliott regarding his insight on how to bring sustainability fundraising development

* + - * 1. Encouraged committee to review the minutes from this meeting in the coming weeks and consider a direction to pursue in the next meeting

1. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Allison Vitt; Sustainable Transportation Fair is Nov. 1 from 10am-2pm on the north east corner of the Reitz lawn
      1. Electric Vehicle Expo will allow attendees to discuss e-vehicle ownership with faculty and staff, both personal and UF fleet
      2. Information on many types of sustainable transportation will be available
      3. Committee, please spread the word about this event to your areas
      4. Matt Williams; future announcements are forthcoming regarding incentives to purchase e-vehicles; a list of approved vehicles is available from procurement services
2. Meeting Adjourned
   1. 1:44pm

Next Meeting: 11/9/2017 12:30pm Reitz Union Rm 2340