UF Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

12-14-2017

12:30pm

Reitz Union Rm 3305

Attendance:

John Duncan

Maya Patel

Terry Harpold

Ernesto Escoto

Ariel Pomputius

Les Thiele

Madison Smith

Ravish Paul

Phone:

Amy Stein

Ravi Srinivasan

Liz Storn

Ann Lindell

Mark Robinson

1. Approval of minutes of October and November meetings
   1. Motion: Ernesto Escoto
      1. Second: Les Thiele
   2. Unanimously approved by committee
2. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Collection Day successful
      1. Worked with Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store for first time
   2. Gator Gears Takeback complete
   3. Maya Patel: Campus Community Partnership pilot program finished its first semester
      1. Fall courses worked with undergraduate classes, Spring classes will work with graduate students
      2. Partnership Community Weatherization Coalition
3. STARS updates
   1. Library Open-Access (Ann Lindell)
      1. Currently on hiatus but should be active again in January
      2. It has been very popular with funds being spent down earlier than anticipated
      3. Updated guidelines are on library website
      4. Future funding is on Provost’s desk for approval
   2. Faculty Research Support (Ravi Srinivasan)
      1. Will plan to update next meeting
   3. Student Research Support (Les)
      1. Met with Provost Lindner
      2. Support approved for GAs for fall and spring for working with UF CARES
   4. Relevant Data from Other STARS Submissions was sent out with agenda for review by committee
      1. Once reviewed, please share opportunities/strategies used by other schools that may apply for UF’s advancement in STARS
4. Paper Policy Recommendation
   1. John Duncan reviewed other large land grant universities with forestry programs for paper policies to compare
      1. Schools had a wide variety of policies from no specifications to very strict specifications
      2. Many policies lacked enforcement or specific guidelines
      3. Review of highlighted examples of nonspecific and specific policies
      4. A document will be included in the minutes with applicable examples from other universities
         1. Some states such as Iowa and Georgia have state mandated policies
      5. Discussion of possible specifics to include in a UF policy
         1. Chlorine free
         2. Sustainably forested
         3. Etc
      6. Review of UF’s purchasing history based on prior STARS submissions
      7. 30% standard is the current EPA recommendation
   2. A recommendation for 30% seems to make the most sense
      1. Need to work with purchasing to negotiate a good deal on this paper
      2. UC Berkeley has negotiated for a very good deal on 100% recycled content paper (Ernesto Escoto)
      3. Possibility to create phase-in goals discussed
      4. Discussion of a “buy local” policy to try and keep more florida land in forestry over agricultural or development use
         1. Is it possible to purchase southeaster sourced paper?
         2. What is a recommendation that can be made and then worked with by the committee and purchasing to try and balance these concerns?
      5. John Duncan will contact FIU to inquire about the process they went through to reach their policy of requiring 30% recycled content paper
      6. Liz Storn will reach out to purchasing to inquire about possibilities for locally sourced paper and option for deals on recycled content paper
5. Performance Assessment Sustainability Inclusion
   1. Discussion of including sustainability in the annual performance assessment process while UF is undergoing revisions to the process
   2. Business Affairs includes sustainability in their individual employee reviews
   3. Terry Harpold expressed concerns that this may unduly burden service staff because of the nature of their jobs
   4. A wider definition of sustainability being applied here may be helpful
      1. Including diversity, access to resources, equality, etc in addition to the typical aspects of sustainability such as waste and energy
   5. Discussion of a “Sustainability Bonus” or recognition
      1. Committee already assists with Champions for Change awards, which is a similar concept
   6. Could include language encouraging empowerment of staff by supervisors
      1. Additionally, an encouragement of using sustainability topics and behaviors in their praise for employees during the performance review process
   7. John Duncan will determine who to contact and the process for the committee submitting a memo or suggestion regarding this topic
6. Highlighting Sustainability
   1. Two new health facilities at UF Health have earned 4/4 green globes (first in country)
   2. UF is piloting a self standing solar charging station in Turlington Plaza
7. Meeting adjourned 1:48pm