05/10/2018

Sustainability Committee Meeting

Reitz Union Rm 2340

Attendance:

Chris Martinez

John Duncan

Hannah Ulloa

Matt Williams

Ariel Pomputius

Ravish Paul

Phone:

Ravi Srinivasan

Hardev Sandhu

Mark Robinson

Liz Storn

Amy Stein

1. Welcome
   1. Last meeting was cancelled for all to support Office of Sustainability during campus earth week
2. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Wrapping up semester projects
   2. Planning summer items
      1. Climate Action Plan structure and background research
      2. Expanding faculty/staff engagement
      3. Increasing sustainable certified offices on campus
   3. Discussion of Gator Well program to encourage water bottle reuse
      1. Hannah Ulloa will contact them RE: Gator Gulp program to see about partnering
   4. Campus Earth Week was successful
   5. Food for Thought has two more sessions scheduled
      1. If any other Green Teams would like to take over this lunchtime meeting series as hosts, please contact Hannah Ulloa or Dustin Stephany
   6. Collection Day
      1. Jacob Adams will send out the numbers from Alachua County Hazardous Waste along with other data from the event
3. STARS
   1. Libraries Update - Ann Lindell
      1. Document has been submitted to Matthew Williams and Liz Storn for review
      2. Ariel Pomputius found two research guides
         1. Sustainability in the Library
            1. Needs to be updated soon
         2. Libraries have had a focus on properly sorting and recycling packaging materials and waste books and other library materials
         3. Libraries are selecting books and materials that focus on sustainability
   2. Interdisciplinary Review - Chris Martinez
      1. No currently fully applicable items
         1. Some partially applicable items may be able to be submitted
      2. May have opportunities to draft and implement language and programming for upcoming submissions
         1. Chris Martinez will inquire as to the process for beginning this
   3. Student Research Support - Les Thiele
      1. No draft of a submission for this category
   4. Faculty Research Support - Ravi Srinivasan
      1. Document has been submitted for review
         1. Focus for submission is on two recent multi-disciplinary grants and then some UF Institutes
            1. UF and City of Gainesville Research Plan
            2. UF Faculty Seed Grant
            3. UF Water Institute
            4. UF Transportation Institute
   5. Final submission date will be in December 2018
      1. Matt Williams thanked the committee for the work so far
      2. Liz Storn offered that the following areas might be applicable for the committee to assist with further
         1. Learning outcomes for students exiting programs
            1. Ravi Srinivasan offered to assist with information from his college
            2. College of Engineering has this in place, are there others?
            3. Can committee members reach out to their home colleges and work not only on existing learning outcomes, but to establish new ones?
4. Temperature Policy Review
   1. John Duncan submitted the current proposed Facilities Services policy for internal room temperature for the committee’s consideration
      1. Would the committee like to approve this proposal for consideration by the president’s office? Yes
         1. Has everyone on the committee had a chance to read the policy?
            1. General consensus is yes
         2. Mark Robinson motions for the committee to approve the proposed policy as presented
            1. Ariel Pomputius seconds the motion
            2. The committee unanimously voted to approve the motion
   2. Ravish Paul; many schools have a policy like this one
      1. Creating a central, standardized temperature set point would help with reducing energy use
      2. It is currently being evaluated by Facilities Services administration
      3. The suggested general temperature range is 68-72 degrees F for heating and 72-76 degrees F for cooling
         1. This will be optimized for the systems in place across campus as needed
      4. Occupant education on how the systems work will help to reduce misconceptions about the nature of how the cooling and heating system works on campus buildings
         1. This is a focus for the Office of Sustainability over the summer
   3. Question - Ravi Srinivasan: How is automation able to accommodate those who may need to be in the building after regular business hours?
      1. Ravish Paul; a manual override can be put in place
      2. Matt Williams; this will help with potential political pushback from deans and directors who may request a blanket exception to accommodate employee requests
      3. Ravish Paul; training Facilities Services staff to adjust sensors will be important as well
5. Presentation from Jithin Gopinahdin and Ajay Rajagopal (slides distributed to committee)
   1. Draft of program presented was outcome of graduate project academically supervised by Ravi Srinivasan
   2. Sustainable Event Pre-Certification
      1. Goal to create a quantitative system for certifying the sustainability of campus events
      2. Current systems are qualitative and use arbitrary categorizations
         1. This systems hopes to guide where investment in sustainable events occurs by choosing the most impactful areas for focus
      3. Still experimenting with public facing implementations
         1. Currently exploring Excel spreadsheet and web based form
      4. Seeking input to update data points to make the tool most effective for users
      5. Demo Provided
         1. Excel form
         2. Previously collected data will be used to calculate impact after various parts of form are completed (event type, location, attendees, etc)
         3. Using specific space type application instead of regional space type data
         4. Output provided in specific data set based on responses to questions
      6. Chris Martinez; considering the lifecycle water use for materials may be overly complex even though it may be a valuable consideration
         1. Team will evaluate and consider
         2. At this time the system is being designed to be able to expand to include other, more complex, data as needed
      7. Hannah Ulloa; who are the intended users of this tool? Some faculty and staff members will not have the ability to affect some of the factors included
         1. The tool is intended as a pre-certification measure that be can be used ahead of events to explore the impact of many types of measures
      8. Ariel Pomputius; Will the list of venues be finite and include each building on campus?
         1. Yes, the system has been pre-populated with available information
      9. Chris Martinez; It is important to determine mode share of the typical user’s transportation habits to specific buildings to accurately evaluate the impact
         1. Hannah Ulloa; mode share should be able to be manually entered based on feedback from attendees
      10. John Duncan; will this serve student populations as well as faculty and staff? There will be a big difference in the type of transportation used by students and employees
          1. The tool can be updated to reflect this
      11. Matt Williams; we have experienced difficulty with achieving participation goals and with last minute submissions. This tool will be good for those who plan ahead, but may be less helpful for those planning events last minute.
      12. Ariel Pomputius; important to reduce the total input needed from users, limited time and attention
          1. Chris Martinez; agreed. Must be user-centric
      13. Ravi Srinivasan; DCP is willing to pilot this program. Would like to meet with Office of Sustainability; Ariel Pomputius - Library Convocation Committee would be willing to participate as well; Chris Martinez - IFAS groups may be interested as well
      14. Ravish Paul; another useful tool would be to have the tool recommend a building to use after other details are submitted
6. Members rolling off after July 2018
   1. Mark Robinson, Ann Lindell, Hardev Sandhu, Chris Martinez
7. Meeting adjourned at 1:56pm