07-12-2018 Sustainability Committee Meeting

Reitz Union 2345

Attendance:

Matt Williams

John Duncan

Ravish Paul

Dustin Stephany

Allison Vitt

Phone:

Amy Stein

Lauren Berkow

Liz Storn

Ernesto Escoto

1. Approval of minutes from 5/10/2018
   1. Motion to approve: Dustin Stephany
   2. Second: Ravish Paul
   3. Minutes unanimously approved
2. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Office has been pushing on GROW green office certification process over beginning of summer
      1. Currently 13 enrolled and 20 in process
      2. Request for interested committee members to suggest offices to consider enrolling
      3. Discussion of relevant discoveries from the process so far
      4. Ernest Escoto expressed that his office (Counseling and Wellness Center) had a very positive experience with the process
   2. Office in discussion with city and county regarding straw bans, plastic bag bans, other single use plastic bans
   3. Office is working on community relations; hosting a collaboration for nonprofits working in sustainability
      1. Meeting 7/24
      2. Request for connection to non-profits that may be appropriate
      3. Ths project has been in development for a number of years to bring community orgs together with campus
3. Discussion of single use plastics on campus
   1. Straw and plastic bag bans being put in place across the country
   2. UF Student Government resolution recommended that OOS implement reduction of straws on campus
      1. This has sparked positive conversations with SG about resolution process
      2. Gator Dining is looking at the possibility of compostable options
      3. Beyond this resolution, other student groups have contacted the office regarding straw bans
   3. Should the committee become involved in some way?
      1. Discussion of current plastic bag and styrofoam ban
         1. In place before current OOS staff and administration were in place
         2. Notable success in Chik-Fil-A removing styrofoam cups and Subway removing plastic bags
      2. Discussion of SG resolution
         1. Possibility of increased spills if lids are no longer used
         2. Starbucks has been implementing lids intended to be used without straws
            1. These are not recyclable/compostable
         3. Committee generally agreed to support the SG resolution
            1. Will follow the progress of the resolution and reconsider future action
      3. Discussion of possibility of larger campus bans on styrofoam, plastic bags and single use plastics
         1. General support for the committee making a recommendation related to this
         2. Could include language recommending posting in break rooms and informing department purchasing staff
         3. Could encourage campus vendors to offer alternatives (reusable straws, water bottles, etc)
            1. Free goods/give away items are less likely to be used
         4. Plastic bottle ban discussion
            1. Plastic can be lighter than aluminum or glass, which could result in lower greenhouse gas emissions during transport
            2. Need to balance this against waste impact
            3. Pepsi contract currently in place for next 8 years will affect these discussions
         5. Sea turtle hospital has reported that styrofoam and hard plastics are a bigger problem than straws
            1. Important to understand which plastics are causing issues
         6. Possibility of expanding plastic bag and styrofoam bans on campus beyond only dining and into all operations discussed
            1. Ravish Paul - **Proposal for the committee to recommend a campus-wide plastic bag and styrofoam ban as an expansion of the existing plastic bag and styrofoam bans in place for dining facilities**
            2. Second: Amy Stein
            3. Unanimous approval
4. Discussion of junk mail coming onto campus
   1. John Duncan expressed dismay at seeing many catalogs delivered in duplicate to Reitz Union offices and then being discarded, often unused
      1. Amy Stein is in agreement and suggested the possibility of using student groups to help reduce junk mail
   2. Liz Storn - Mail & Docs is required to deliver first class mail
      1. They have significantly reduced non-first class mail
      2. An intern is employed to address junk mail
         1. They evaluate mail still arriving for those no longer on campus and unsubscribe
      3. Mail & Document services has offered to assist as possible for offices that would like to reduce junk mail
      4. Mail & Doc is working to reduce internal mailings that are sent out unnecessarily widely
   3. Offices can also take this on themselves and contact senders to unsubscribe
      1. Liz Storn used to fulfill this role for OoS
   4. Matt Williams suggested inviting Jim Briscoe and the intern assigned to junk mail reduction from Mail & Doc to join a meeting of the committee to discuss further
   5. Matt Williams suggested possibility to establishing an on-campus/internal opt-out system
   6. Allen Masters worked on this issue some when he was at Facilities Services Central Stores
5. Lauren Berkow requested feedback on the preferred recycled content paper from the committee’s work on paper policy
   1. John Duncan - Boise 30% recycled content paper is recommended
      1. Has asked a Reitz Union print lab to try out this paper to evaluate potential for damaging printers by using the paper in a single printer and monitoring its performance
   2. Discussion of status of paper policy recommendation from the committee and the feedback from Procurement
      1. Response from Procurement indicated that the recommendations would be difficult or impossible to implement
      2. General sense is that Procurement is shy to engage in any type of enforcement
         1. Committee may look at revising its recommendation to address this concern
6. Dustin Stephany updated on Gator Gulp program
   1. Program is under way
7. Next month will be final meeting for:
   1. Mark Robinson
   2. Ann Lindell
   3. Chris Martinez
   4. Hardev Sandhu
8. Motion to adjourn: Lauren Berkow
   1. Second: Amy Stein
   2. Unanimous vote in favor
   3. Meeting adjourned 1:22pm