8/9/2018

Sustainability Committee

Attendance:

John Duncan

Les Thiele

Terry Harpold

Ariel Pompetius

Dustin Stephany

Matt Williams

Hannah Ulloa,

Phone:

Hardev Sandhu

Liz Storn

1. Approve minutes from 7/12/2018
   1. Terry Harpold moves to approve
   2. Ariel Pomputius seconds motion
   3. Minutes approved
2. Updates from the Office of Sustainability
   1. Matt Williams – continuing to push forward GROW program. Reports are starting to go out. Hoping to open program campus-wide in the fall semester.
   2. Partnering with Community Weatherization Committee to help expand the organization’s reach and increase impact. Supplying funding for increase in number of houses as well as a new program for more advanced house upgrades
   3. Fall semester – looking towards Climate Action Plan
   4. Sustainable Transportation Fair – October 31st
3. Styrofoam Ban Recommendation
   1. John Duncan – circling back to previous meeting, good conversation about plastics and campus mail. One action item for this meeting is a statement and recommendation language for VP office carrying over the Styrofoam/plastic bag ban from dining to campus-wide.
   2. Proposed Language
      1. Whereas, all dining locations at the University of Florida are required to be Styrofoam and plastic bag free; and
      2. Whereas, UF Business Services requests all caterers doing business with the University help reduce the negative impact Styrofoam places on our waste stream by minimizing or eliminating the use of Styrofoam; and
      3. Whereas, individual campus departments and organizations purchase supplies such as plates, bowls, cups etc. for break rooms, offices, events etc.; then,
      4. Therefore, The Sustainability Committee proposes a campus-wide plastic bag and Styrofoam ban as an expansion of the existing plastic bag and Styrofoam bans in place for dining facilities.
      5. The committee further proposes prohibiting the use of University Funds for purchase of Styrofoam products unless no reasonable replacement is available.
   3. Terry Harpold – end of year parties, getting supplies from local stores (Publix), there are actually not a lot of reasonable options. How do you handle last minute purchases and reimbursing mistaken purchases for regular employees?
   4. Ariel Pomputius – what kind of information can be provided to educate employees on what to look for when purchasing in advance or in the store?
   5. Les Thiele – What would the enforcement mechanism be?
      1. John Duncan – there may not be strict enforcement
      2. Terry Harpold – how do you make sure that there is record of purchases for reimbursing or even for defending the budget?
      3. Matt Williams – recycling directive could be model for “enforcement”
      4. Les Thiele – create a campaign towards the voluntary option to stop purchasing Styrofoam, plastic bags, etc. Joining a coalition that can be marketed and educational.
         1. Using non-state funds means that some of the purchases may not be affected by this directive anyways
         2. Offered Facets of Sustainability class as a group that could explore the voluntary aspect of this directive.
            1. Gather data, design a poster, design a program, provide a success story to refer back to.
   6. John Duncan – Styrofoam is already banned from dining locations and certain facilities. So we would not be starting from square1 when it comes to banning it campus-wide.
      1. Terry Harpold – is there data on the amount of Styrofoam that has been kept out of the waste stream?
         1. Liz Storn – prevented amount 1.2 million pieces or 24,000 pounds of Styrofoam from going into landfill. Plastic bag ban - 16,000 plastic bags prevented every week.
   7. Ariel Pomputius – Green Teams may be able to start grassroots effort to reduce Styrofoam/plastic purchasing.
   8. Dustin – how could we get feedback from office admin or purchasing employees about this type of directive?
      1. Matt Williams – there is some kind of email list being used to contact P-card holders
   9. Matt Williams – suggested talking to Procurement about Mister Paper options
   10. Hardev Sandhu – items need to be pre-approved, maybe this could be part of the process.
4. John – What is the next step if we do not want to expand the Styrofoam/plastic bag ban with this directive? Is this where we want to focus our efforts for the fall?
   1. Bookstore could be part of the plastic bag conversation
   2. Ariel Pomputius – moving away from ban and more towards voluntary program
   3. Can we still develop something to point to when working on this program?
   4. Campus wide announcement that discourages as well as investigate voluntary program compliance and effectiveness.
   5. Statement can be worded to be similar to dining location ban rather than expanding the current ban.
   6. Could suggest a wider menu of what might be avoided rather than focusing just on Styrofoam or plastic bags.
   7. Could we challenge the students to create an educational program to educate the departments and evaluate purchasing before and after
      1. Les Thiele – not enough time
      2. Look at number of departments interested in participating in coalition
   8. Looking to focus on more waste reduction options
      1. Cutlery
      2. Single-use plastic
   9. Investigate with Mister Paper the top 5 purchases that are usually plastic or Styrofoam to create list of substitute options.
   10. Matt Williams suggested getting Adrian Hayes Santos or Harvey Ward to come speak with the group about the city efforts on zero waste.
   11. Create a directive that Les’ class can get behind. Will they support a Styrofoam ban or broader directive?
   12. Matt Williams – committee could reach out directly to Mister Paper to find top purchases when it comes to service ware items. Discuss options that may be options to offer if a policy was to be in place. Discussion about cost differentials
   13. Need to discuss with Les what he would need for his class
   14. Terry Harpold – wording should be reframed to use “replace” or “transition” rather than “ban” or “reduce”
5. Parting words from members rolling off
   1. Hardev Sandhu is the only one present that will be leaving the committee.
   2. Hardev Sandhu – good experience, my pleasure to work with the whole team. Unable to attend meetings in person but still felt connected and able to contribute from off-campus location.
   3. New members should start in September meeting. Still waiting to hear who will occupy the 3 Senate seats, 3 VPBA seats.
   4. Students seats are still unknown.
6. Next meeting - September
   1. May need to be rescheduled based off of Les’ schedule
   2. Jacob will work on scheduling the next meeting, possibly send out a new poll
   3. Could the attendance rules be more flexible?
7. Terry Harpold move to end meeting
   1. Second by Ariel Pomputius
   2. Meeting concludes at 2:02pm