UF Sustainability Committee Meeting

09/13/2018

12:30pm

Reitz Union Rm. 2340

Attendance:

John Duncan

Ravish Paul

David Lucier

Matt Williams

Dustin Stephany

Fiona Hogan

Hannah Ulloa

Mehmet Genc

Jiri Hulcr

Phone:

Amy Stein

Ernesto Escoto

Les Thiele

Lauren Berkow

Amulya Dhulipala

1. Update From Les Thiele
   1. Facets of Sustainability class was given option a research project or a campus project
      1. About half chose campus project in teams of 5 (~10 teams) related to reduction of single use plastics
      2. Goals are to personally reduce SUP use and to research how other campuses and communities have reduced
         1. Additionally, they will look to create possible policies related to campus infrastructure that could reduce SUP use
      3. Les Thiele requests the committee consider providing guidance/resources on how to best move forward with possible outcome policies
         1. What does the committee think would be the best way to reduce use of SUP?
         2. Les Thiele expressed his concern that the Office of Sustainability would be inundated with information requests and asks that OOS provide any information that would help to reduce those requests
2. Introductions
3. Charge of Sustainability Committee
   1. Matt Williams led a presentation of the committee’s position (attached) within the campus committee structure and the committee’s charge
   2. The committee has an advisory capacity and any motions passed by the committee will be passed to VP Curtis Reynolds for consideration
   3. Overview of attendance policy
      1. Three consecutive unexcused absences will result in roll-off
      2. Excused absences can be other meetings, medical appointments, class schedules, travel, etc
      3. Phone attendance should only be utilized for those not in Gainesville or not on campus
4. Request from Chair John Duncan for the committee to recommend actionable goals
   1. Possible connection to Santa Fe Sustainability Committee
   2. Support for Transportation Master Plan
   3. Dustin Stephany: Establish energy savings goals, air quality goals, carbon reduction goals, waste diversion goals for LEED building and renovation projects
      1. Possibility of leaving LEED will make establishing these goals important for evaluating other systems of certification
      2. Experts could come to committee to present information related to establishing goals
   4. Ravish Paul: Evaluation of possibility of examining private financing of upgrading buildings
5. Existing Agenda Items
   1. Paper Purchasing Policy
   2. STARS Credits
      1. Information on the STARS system and our past and future submissions will be sent to the committee for review
      2. A submission is due in December, any input must be complete by early November at the latest
   3. Review and revision of campus policies related to sustainability
      1. Additional documentation will be sent to committee for review and discussion at October meeting
6. Office of Sustainability Priorities
   1. Gator Dining Services
      1. Energy efficiency for Fresh Food, Gator Corner and Racquet Club buildings
      2. Encouraging local food purchasing
   2. Digital tool for linking campus and community entities and academics with tracking and archiving of projects
   3. Campus Climate Action Plan Revision
      1. Carbon Neutrality Goal of 2025 is unlikely to be met
   4. Working with Facility Services to improve campus building energy efficiency
   5. Developing a Cohesive Campus waste messaging strategy with a national consultant
   6. Development of Campus Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan
   7. Project with Community Weatherization Coalition, Campus and the City of Gainesville to improve low-income home energy efficiency
7. Preferred Purchasing Practices
   1. In the past the committee has reviewed paper purchasing options and practices and created a policy directive recommendation that was reviewed by the Office of Procurement as well as the Department of Forestry.
      1. The policy stalled due to the mandatory 30% paper purchasing directive and the possible ramifications of enforcing such a policy
      2. Other possible suggestions are being reviewed
      3. An informational email was sent out to purchasers on campus which resulted in a noticeable reduction in purchasing of non-recycled content paper
         1. This email will be distributed to the committee as an example
   2. The recent national conversation around straws and plastics has caused a wider scope in the review of purchasing policies for campus
      1. The committee may be in a place to make recommendations that could influence how campus purchasing takes place, with regard to plastics and renewables
      2. Brief review of campus history of removing plastic bags and styrofoam at campus dining locations
         1. John Duncan would like to seek a campus-wide ban on those items
         2. Recommendation of banning plastic items campus-wide received pushback at previous committee meeting due to difficulties of enforcement and accountability
      3. Recommendation to establish a list of suggested items for purchase and a campaign to educate campus purchasers of best practices
         1. John Duncan developed a first draft list example
         2. Discussion of establishing a hotlist or having preferred items be easily searched for and itemized
            1. Ideally this would be a pre-checked field in a search
         3. Question from Dustin Stephany: Is it possible to know how often the “green item” box is checked and explored?
            1. Matt Williams: That may be a possibility. More likely to be able to have preferred items rank higher in search results
         4. Possible to recommend that all purchasers/pcard holders be emailed with a message about purchasing preferences
            1. John Duncan requests assistance in crafting an email as a follow-up

Jiri Hulcr is interested in helping with this effort

* + - * 1. Also requests for research on other campus policies and practices

Dustin Stephany is interested in helping with this

Matt Williams will post on Green Schools list and report back to committee

* + - * 1. Federal vendor requirements in the past have made manipulation of website purchasing options possible

This may be possible for UF portals as well

1. Key Events for Fall 2018
   1. Allison Vitt reviewed a list of events coming up in the fall that are relevant to sustainability on and around campus
   2. TailGator Recycling Program - Fan outreach program intended to inform about recycling practices and reduce landfill waste
      1. Occurs before home football games
   3. Sustainable Transportation Fair - Showcase for e-vehicles and other sustainable transportation options
      1. Occurs 10/31
   4. Fall Collection Day - One stop event for difficult to dispose of waste and donations in partnership with community and campus groups
      1. Occurs 12/5
2. Discussion of outreach efforts on transportation issues as well as relationship between city and campus on transportation infrastructure development
3. Motion to adjourn Amy Stein at 2:22pm
   1. Second David Lucier
   2. Unanimously approved
4. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 10/11/2018