10/11/2018 - 12:30-2:30pm

UF Sustainability Committee Meeting

Reitz Union Rm. 3305

Attendance:

John Duncan

Matt Williams

Allison Vitt

Wilcley Lima

Jiri Hulcr

Dustin Stephany

Ravish Paul

Mehmet Genc

Phone:

Derek Ro

Amy Stein

Ariel Pomputius

1. Introductions of new members
   1. Wilcley Lima - Associate Director UF Business Services
   2. Derek Ro - Industrial/Systems Engineering Junior
2. Office of Sustainability Updates
   1. Suggestion to update on campus sustainability topics in future meetings
   2. Open position for Climate Sustainability Coordinator for OOS
      1. Matt Williams will share to committee soon
   3. Committee members will be added to OOS newsletter mailing list
   4. GROW pilot phase has ended - preparing to open to all campus departments
      1. Pilot saw 21 offices certified or in the pipeline
      2. Brief description of program given
         1. Jiri Hulcr: Could a research lab participate?
            1. Yes, potentially. A sustainable labs program for campus is in development
            2. Jiri Hulcr: I would be willing to assist and volunteer my lab for a pilot
   5. OOS Office members just attended AASHE & BECC conferences
      1. At AASHE UF was recognized by Cupanion reuse program for successful campus promotion
      2. Committee encouraged to participate in the program
         1. Allison Vitt will bring decals in for the committee next month
      3. Wilcley Lima: will help with getting decals in bookstore
   6. CWC Partnership discussed
      1. Description of program to assist low income households with conserving energy and creating utilities savings
      2. UF funding to help CWC help reach 150 homes this year
      3. CWC Energy Coach Training is upcoming beginning on 10/25
         1. Committee members encouraged to consider participating and to spread the word to anyone who may be interested
   7. Sustainable Transportation Fair discussed
      1. To be held on 10/31 - 10a-2p
      2. Will feature campus and community organizations relevant to sustainable transportation
         1. EV Showcase for campus and personally owned vehicles
         2. Electric Bike Showcase to demo electric bikes
   8. Climate Communications Summit 11/7
      1. Collaboration between College of Journalism and Florida Climate Institute
      2. Third year of event
      3. Focus this year on extreme weather events
      4. Free to attend, registration is currently open
   9. Dustin Stephany update
      1. Career Resource Center is LEED Gold certified
      2. Phase II Innovation Hub is LEED Gold certified
      3. 78 current certifications; leading public university
   10. Jiri Hulcr update
       1. SFRC has installed a shower for active commuters
          1. How can we tell these stories to the community?
             1. Contact Allison Vitt
   11. Wilcley Lima update
       1. Gator Dining hiring Sustainability Coordinator
          1. Interviews are now being scheduled
       2. Currently working on new contract with Aramark and focusing on sustainability issues
          1. Committee members encouraged to consider possible areas of discussion for future meetings
             1. Wages

STARS credit looks at campus and contractor wages

* + - * 1. County Racial Inequity Survey shows concern from citizens that student employees are displacing workers
      1. Contract discussions will be coming up starting in November
      2. Dustin Stephany - WELL sustainable certification may be worth considering
         1. Wilcley Lima: Currently working on Partnership for Healthy America certification with Rec Sports
  1. John Duncan update
     1. Infrastructure Committee Meeting last week
        1. Small group in that committee interested in bringing back Living Well faculty/staff only gym
           1. Ran out of funding & then memberships were absorbed by rec sports a number of years ago (closed June 2014 due to revenue shortfall)
           2. Does the committee have a recommendation for or against a similar program?

May be Partnership for Healthy America applicable

Committee might be able to encourage research into relaunching and identifying possible barriers and constituent groups

* + - 1. Discussion of impending elimination of parking on campus due to construction of new garage
         1. Matt Williams: TAPS has a mitigation plan in place to add additional spaces during construction that should avoid a net loss of spaces
         2. Concerns about lack of sidewalks, distance of replacement lots
         3. Matt Williams: Transportation Master Plan for campus will be released later in the fall
         4. Jiri Hulcr: supports reduction of parking spaces; can the committee create a recommendation to encourage communication about reducing driving to campus?

Can we communicate with new faculty and staff that driving is discouraged on campus and there are many alternatives in the community?

1. Direction for Les Thiele’s student projects
   1. Les Thiele has charged his class with creating solutions for single use plastics
      1. The committee has in the past looked at paper purchasing on campus and how to encourage campus purchasers to choose more sustainable paper
         1. Next straw bans solicited by student government came up as a committee topic
         2. Then single use plastics and polystyrene products became a topic
         3. The suggestion was made that Les’ students may be able to help identify products and strategies for achieving the goals of reducing or eliminating single use plastics on campus
            1. Students are entry level
            2. Important to recognize that they may provide feedback of limited practical value from their projects
      2. Mehmet Genc: is UF Health/Shands included in these discussions?
         1. Generally, only the Health Science Center is included
         2. UF Health/Shands considerations are vastly different from those on campus, will need to be a separate discussion
         3. Question of how plastics in health field are properly disposed
         4. Expressed desire for the medical campus to be included in general campus sustainability discussions
            1. Lauren Berkow has started a working group focused on UF Health/Shands waste stream (Matt Williams will update on meeting schedule)
   2. The committee has been asked to provide some guidance for students on the most relevant projects
      1. John Duncan: perhaps researching benefits and interest in switching from less sustainable to more sustainable products
         1. The committee could create a list of items to focus on
2. Purchasing discussion
   1. John Duncan contacted Mr. Paper staff and discovered that the web platform is relatively flexible and that they could come to speak to the committee to provide additional information
      1. Mr. Paper is the preferred vendor, not the mandatory vendor, making it potentially problematic to create mandatory purchasing standards since purchasers could simply purchase elsewhere
      2. Search mechanisms and results listings can be manipulated to some extent
      3. A core list of items has been negotiated by UF Purchasing for better prices
         1. Committee may be able to make recommendations for Purchasing to consider sustainable products for this list
         2. John Duncan will reach out to Purchasing to get core list
            1. Will invite Lisa Deal and Mr. Paper rep to join committee for a future meeting to discuss possible options for committee recommendations
      4. UF Student Government Print Lab has been switched to Aspen 30 paper (1.3m sheets/year printing/620 cases)
         1. Will report on feedback of any complaints or positive reactions
         2. Hopefully may improve standing of the product in the Mr. Paper consideration
         3. John Duncan will confirm if all printers in lab are PrintSmart
      5. David Lucier: Have any campuses, vendors or manufacturers raised prices on non-sustainable items in order to force purchase of more sustainable items?
         1. No campuses or vendors known to have done that
      6. Possibility discussed of committee taking on rewrite/update of a sustainable purchasing initiative
   2. Research currently underway to compare highest rated purchasing policies from AASHE STARS ratings and compare to UF’s
3. Dustin Stephany motion to approve minutes from September
   1. Second Mehmet
   2. Unanimously approved
4. David Lucier: Is a sustainability component included in the preferred caterer program?
   1. Wilcley Lima: Yes, styrofoam is not allowed. Inform me if caterers are using styrofoam. This is true for campus funded and Student Government funded catering.
5. Discussion of creation of Sustainability Committee Listserv
   1. Members encouraged to use listserv for communication between meetings
6. Amy Stein encouraged Office of Sustainability to promote efforts in sustainability
7. David Lucier moved to adjourn
   1. Wilcley Lima second
   2. Unanimously approved at 2:10pm