01-10-2018

Sustainability Committee

12:30pm

Reitz Union Rm. 2340

Attendance:

Wilcley Lima

John Duncan

David Lucier (add to contact list)

Allison Vitt

Jiri Hulcr

Amulya Dhulipala

Ravish Paul

Les Thiele

Ariel Pomputius

Dustin Stephany

Phone:

Liz Storn

Mehmet Genc

Lauren Berkow

Ravi Srinivasan

Amy Stein

1. Welcome
   1. Brief discussion of edits on prior meeting minutes
2. Office of Sustainability Update
   1. Corey Farmer has been selected for the Climate/Carbon Program Coordinator position
   2. Champions for Change Awards nominations will be opening up soon
      1. Recognition program for sustainability & health/well-being champions on campus
      2. Sustainability Committee reviews sustainability applications and advises on winners
      3. Awards ceremony currently scheduled for 4/3, location TBD
      4. Committee Members encouraged to identify possible nominees
      5. Will include recognition for some offices that have participated in GROW program
         1. Brief discussion of GROW program
      6. This is an excellent opportunity for sustainability committee’s active participation in sustainability on campus
      7. Committee members are invited to ceremony and encouraged to attend
   3. Earth Week April 1-5
      1. Julian Agyeman - proposed speaker (Keynote 4/1)
         1. Champion of social justice as facet of sustainability
      2. 4/3 - Sustainability Org Showcase at Reitz Union (10a-2p)
         1. C4C Awards Ceremony that evening
      3. 4/6 Green & Clean Event
      4. All information will be featured on sustainable.ufl.edu
   4. Public comment request for Transportation & Parking Master Plan will be open until 1/18
3. Roundtable Updates
   1. Les Thiele - has begun meetings with directors of four major campus units with sustainability or environmental focus & undergraduate education provost
      1. Expects to have names of primary contacts from units by next meeting
      2. Is course clearinghouse website ready to launch?
         1. Allison Vitt - preparing beta test roll-out to relevant stakeholders
4. City of Gainesville Styrofoam & Plastic Bag Ban and Campus
   1. Review of prior discussions on campus of plastic and styrofoam bans
   2. With city-wide ordinance potentially incoming, how will UF address a ban?
      1. How will the ban affect different populations on campus?
      2. Does the committee wish to weigh in at all?
   3. Liz Storn - Curtis Reynolds has expressed a desire to see campus support the city ordinance
   4. Les Thiele - recommends inviting a member of city commission or city staff to attend a committee meeting and update the committee on the current status of the ordinance
      1. Ordinance is likely to be confirmed or denied before the next meeting
      2. Liz Storn - Would be value in having a statement from academic representatives within sustainability committee, not simply coming from Curtis Reynolds
   5. Discussion of possible repercussions and obstacles from committee statement
      1. Jiri Hulcr - encourages committee to focus primarily on their direct opinion of the policy as opposed to overthinking how to fix possible problems
   6. Campus already has ban on styrofoam or plastic bags in dining facilities
      1. Also campus has a similar policy for off campus caterers
      2. Established policy is a good starting point to new ban
   7. Les Thiele - suggests working to craft an informed statement on how a ban could be implemented on campus, as opposed to a less involved statement of general support
      1. Jiri Hulcr - Could be valuable to offer both types of statements
         1. An initial recommendation to stand in agreement with city ordinance and point campus’ extant progress in reducing plastic and styrofoam
         2. A more in-depth statement to Les’ point
   8. John Duncan - need to procure and distribute city ordinance language to committee members
      1. Committee could perhaps craft a draft policy for campus based on the city language
      2. Allison Vitt will send out current draft of city ordinance
   9. Recommendation to craft a statement that the committee is in general agreement with the city’s stance and is soliciting additional community input and studying the issue
      1. Wilcley Lima proposes that the committee engage in additional research and craft a statement before the next meeting with the intent to vote on the language in February
         1. Amy Stein agreed with this sentiment
         2. Additionally extend invitation to city commission to join
            1. John Duncan suggests drafting specific questions for committee members to respond to via email exchange
            2. Les Thiele expressed preference for an in person meeting with a commissioner
   10. Unanimous motion to adjourn 1:27pm