**12/23/2018 - UF Sustainability Committee Meeting**

Reitz Union Rm. 3305

**Attendance:**

John Duncan

Matt Williams

Allison Vitt

Dustin Stephany

Ravish Paul

Ariel Pomputius

David Lucier

Terry Harpold

Ernesto Escoto

Les Thiele

**Phone:**

Derek Ro

Amy Stein

Lauren Berkow

Amulya Dhulipala

Liz Storn

Jiri Hulcr

**Not in attendance:**

Wilcley Lima

Mehmet Genc

Ravi Srinivasan

Patrick Troy

**Minutes:**

Approval of minutes from November

Matt Williams/Allison Vitt: Sustainability Office Updates

* Climate coordinator position update
* Overview of Collection Day results

John Duncan: SG print lab update on recycled paper pilot

* Experienced more jams/errors in the print lab, and as a result the lab has returned to previous paper type.
* Will continue to push for division-level recycled content paper use.
* John spoke with Boise rep, learned that the federal contract and Disney corporation use Aspen 30. There is a potential opportunity for the rep to speak at a future Sustainability Committee meeting if the committee wishes.

Matt Williams: Overview of the Gainesville Solar Co-Op opportunity

* Co-op provides a zero-risk commitment. Once a co-op reaches a certain number of interested parties, they go to bid – resulting in typically around a 20% cost reduction because of the bulk bid process.
* From previous co-op opportunity: 289 homes were deemed appropriate for solar, of those 250 actually moved forward with the process.
* Deadline is Feb. 15 for interested parties to sign on to the co-op.
  + Q: Amy Stein - Could there be an incentive for UF faculty to participate?   
    A: Matt Williams – Unlikely right now, but considering modelling another university that does low or no-interest loans to faculty/staff for energy retrofits payed back through payroll deduction. It could also be a way for UF to own those carbon reductions.

Terry Harpold: Children’s Trust lawsuit discussion

* Family friend is one of 8 plaintiffs in a Children’s Trust lawsuit against the state re: climate change policy changes. The individual is interested in coming to talk about the case at UF.
  + Amy Stein: Law School may be able to help sponsor a visit or check on the feasibility, could it be linked with Public Interest Environmental Conference?

John Duncan: Procurement Update

* Looking at AASHE STARS campuses that have been successful in updating their purchasing portal, purchasing certain types of goods, etc. - Hope to have a report for the committee soon.
* Overview of a few institutions of note:
  + U. of Colorado – Colorado Springs: They have a Staples contract, and successfully removed virgin paper from their portal.
  + Notre Dame: They have a combo contract with Staples and Office Depot and have the highest green purchasing rate of any private higher education institution as tracked by Office Depot.
  + U. of Indiana Bloomington: They have an internal process for reviewing all purchases, with fiscal officers assigned to various officers to review purchases as they’re made and suggest better alternatives.
  + UNC Chapel Hill: With their contract with Fisher Instruments, refrigerated supplies are delivered in reusable containers (similar to a central store location) – first pilot in the country.
  + American University: They have a contract similar to Mr. Paper, but noting the preference of the sustainable materials. When those types of items are purchased there’s a pop-up to thank the purchaser.
  + Emory: Has done significant work on paper purchasing – eliminated all non-sustainable paper in working with Staples. All of their paper is TreeZero Paper – carbon neutral paper blend.
    - Matt Williams noted that this may be greenwashing, encourages use of sugar cane industry.
  + Colorado State University: They educate people on sustainable purchasing by funneling them through green office program.

John Duncan: Campus Parking Master Plan survey results and discussion

* Response rate – half of students, 41% staff, 12% faculty responded.
* Discussion among committee regarding Park-n-Ride lots and feasibility, bike infrastructure, bus system routes, faculty/staff-only shuttles, helmet campaigns.
* Matt Williams noted that the Committee may have an opportunity to provide valuable input on these discussions as they continue in faculty senate and beyond.
* Ernesto Escoto asked whether there’s any consideration for lower income staff on campus because of the increased parking costs in the center of campus. UNC-Chapel Hill bases decal rates on salary income.

John Duncan: Status of Sustainability Committee

* Met with the Committee on Committees to update them on the status of the Sustainability Committee and how it has been operating.
* Provided them with an overview of our charge, how we’ve been forming, where we’ve found limitations, etc. and where we might see the Committee going in the future.
* Crafted potential framework for how this may move forward in the future, give more structure to the charge of this Committee.
  + Les Thiele: Discussed restructuring of the Committee, and a shift in focus:
    - Recruitment of new members that are especially interested to take on tasks of the Committee over next 2-3 years.
    - Bring in faculty from various colleges that all have sustainability-oriented programs to work specifically on developing experiential learning opportunities for students.
      * Practical application on campus/in the community.
      * Aligns with UF’s QUEST program – year 3&4 going to focus on experiential education for undergrads.
      * Part of this Committee’s mission for 2-3 year cycle help to develop these programs on campus.
      * Also serves as a way to increase sustainability education on campus (ties into STARS).
    - This year, the Committee would be active in soliciting faculty members that would be interested in joining for the next cycle.
    - Jiri Hulcr: Suggestion to increase or focus strategic communications efforts by this Committee.
* Call for motion to advance the possibility of directly recruiting to this Committee and to move forward with the proposal as presented (with addition of a friendly amendment regarding strategic communications efforts proposed by Jiri Hulcr).
  + Ariel Pomputius: motion to move forward with exploring the proposal at it currently stands, with the friendly amendment suggested by Jiri Hulcr.
  + Seconded by Terry Harpold. None opposed, motion passes.

Next meeting Jan. 10.

Motion to adjourn by Terry Harpold, seconded by Ariel Pomputius.

**Meeting adjourned - 2:16 pm**