Agenda

UF Sustainability Committee

12:30-2:30pm

12-13-2018

Reitz Union Rm 3305

1. Office of Sustainability Updates
2. Procurement Working Group Update
3. TAPS Survey Feedback
   1. See Attached Document
4. Committee on Committees Meeting
   1. See Draft Proposal Below

DRAFT PROPOSAL

Our proposal is that the UF Sustainability Committee consider committing itself over the next 2-3 years, as intrinsic to its mandate and as part of its appointed tasks, to stimulating the development of sustainability-oriented undergraduate experiential education at UF.

Experiential Sustainability Education (ESE) could take many forms at the University of Florida, including the use of the UF Campus, and the broader Gainesville community, as a "living laboratory" for sustainable development and its educational components.

The living laboratory approach to ESE is pursued by many colleges and universities across the world. Employing the campus as a living laboratory was intrinsic to the formation of the Office of Sustainability, whose mission included integrating educational and physical plant efforts to understand and ameliorate the university's environmental impacts.  Living laboratory projects were also the focus of the recent "UF-City of Gainesville research program" sponsored by UF's Senior Vice President for Operations, Charlie Lane, who awarded last year "more than $300,000 in research awards to seven UF-City of Gainesville research projects" as part of "UF’s Strategic Development Plan ... that utilize the UF campus and greater Gainesville community as **a living laboratory** to address real-world problems in the local community" (<https://news.hr.ufl.edu/spotlight/uf-city-of-gainesville-research-award-winners-announced/>).

The development of ESE at UF is well poised at this time to take advantage of, and become integrated with, UF's "Quest" program.  UF is currently rolling out the Quest program, a comprehensive revision of the undergraduate "core course" curricula. In Quest's third phase, beginning in 2020, students will be expected to engage in one or more forms of "experiential education," such as internships, service learning, study abroad, etc.  The idea is that "The experiential education of Quest 3 complement and extends classroom learning, offering the opportunity to put information and theory into practice in the community" (<http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/uf-quest/uf-quest-trials/>).  A number of initiatives on campus are conducting pilot programs to explore the broadening and deepening of undergraduate experiential education with a community-based focus (e.g.<http://caires.center.ufl.edu/current-projects/the-active-learning-program/>).

Our proposal is that the UF Sustainability Committee initiate its 2-3 commitment to the development of ESE by researching the most effective ESE programs at other colleges and universities; identifying resources already or potentially deployable for ESE at UF; and recruiting faculty at UF who would be willing to be  nominated to the UF Sustainability Committee for the purpose of advancing ESE initiatives. We propose these faculty be located within UF's existing sustainability-oriented programs, namely, the Sustainability and the Built Environment program in the College of Design, Construction and Planning; the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment in the College of Engineering; the School of Natural Resources and Environment in the College of Agriculture and the Life Sciences; and the Sustainability Studies program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.