

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES

11/14/19, 12:30 – 2:30 PM

2345 Reitz Union

ATTENDEES:

David Lucier (Chair), Ariel Pomputius, Dustin Stephany, Wilcley Lima, Andrew Zimmerman, John Duncan, Ravish Paul, Vandana Baweja, Mehmet Genc, Allison Vitt

VIA PHONE:

Amy Stein, Kristin Joys, Liz Storn

GUESTS/NON-MEMBERS:

Zakiya Smith-Dore (via phone)

CALL TO ORDER:

Conference line difficulties, meeting called to order at 12:40 pm (David Lucier, Chair)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Andrew Zimmerman moved to approve minutes from 10/10/19 meeting, seconded by Ariel Pomputius. Minutes were approved.

EXISTING BUSINESS:

Graduation Glitter Sub-Committee Update

(Andrew Zimmerman, Ariel Pomputius, Dustin Stephany):

- Andrew Zimmerman: Had a meeting with Stephanie McBride (Director of Commencements) re: students taking graduation pictures using glitter, which creates problems for grounds dept. and has negative environmental impacts (microplastics).
- As a result, Dr. Fuchs responded to concerns via letter/email:
 - Encouraged clear advertising about the issue, using student groups and peer pressure to support the initiative, suggested op-ed in Alligator, recommended that UPD not be asked to enforce a policy.
- Stephanie McBride reached out to other communication directors at other universities for suggestions – one example was developing a Snapchat GeoFilter during grad events to simulate glitter. (Allison Vitt noted this would not address issue of professional photography).
- Dustin Stephany: Discussed that an action item should be who to reach out to on campus (i.e. student groups, student government).
 - Allison Vitt: Meeting with Gators Going Green, UF Social team and Glitter Sub-Committee may be useful, will facilitate the coordination of a meeting. **ACTION ITEM.**
- Dustin Stephany & Ariel Pomputius: Sub-Committee looked at 12 universities and how they addressed glitter:
 - Eco-fetti giveaways, education on microplastics, social media campaigns, student groups, organized clean-ups.
 - Student-to-student peer pressure was the takeaway.
- Other ideas discussed around the table:
 - Establishing a glitter location (background or contained location),

- Providing eco-glitter,
- Recruiting students to create compostable glitter,
- Seeds, bubbles as alternatives,
- Storm drain filters (would need to work with Ground dept.).

RTS Discussion

(David Lucier)

- David Lucier reminded the committee that there was discussion around the committee addressing sustainable transportation to and from campus via RTS and how to increase positive perception of bus system among faculty and staff.
 - Interested members should form a sub-committee to address: Improving perception, barriers to ridership, using sustainability as a lens to promote bus ridership.
 - Request from committee members to have TAPS join a future meeting to talk about what they are doing to increase RTS ridership, discuss TAPS survey and data from new Haile route.
 - Dustin Stephany: Discussed LEED certification requirements and bus ridership – what can we do to get more ridership during weekends? (Possible question for TAPS).
 - David Lucier: Will reach out to TAPS to find out about a representative joining a future meeting. **ACTION ITEM.**

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS:

- Andrew Zimmerman: Discussion around reducing plastic use in departments, increasing composting, etc.
- Ariel Pomputius: Recycled content paper discussion – how should the committee continue to be involved in this effort?
 - Andrew Zimmerman: Suggested providing info to each procurement person in offices throughout campus pertaining to plastic use, paper use, etc.
 - Allison Vitt: No comprehensive up-to-date list like this exists for the Office of Sustainability. Discussed history of Green Teams as points-of-contact but now many groups are defunct. Discussed green office certification program as a mechanism for providing this information. Suggested that the committee could undertake the effort of putting together a contact list.
- Vandana Baweja: Could there be dispenser/fountain machines on campus instead of drink vending machines with single-use bottles?
 - Wilcley Lima: Something that Business Services could look into, Pepsi likes to implement innovative ideas on campus. **ACTION ITEM.**
- Vandana Baweja: Possible to have vending machines sell reusable cups/bottles?
 - Wilcley Lima: Maybe - Discussed discount at Starbucks for using reusable cups – 25 cents off any beverage, not specific to Starbucks-branded cups, any cup will qualify for the discount.
- Wilcley Lima: Update on #GatorsBEATWaste Station [Reitz Food Court]: Station has been enhanced, and they have started collecting data using a scale under the compost bin for baseline last week. TV screens will begin to show real-time weight of compost compared to previous weeks

- John Duncan: Regarding the recycled-content paper discussion and the outdated idea that recycled content has negative effects on copiers: Recommended that if everyone on the committee could attempt to convince their departments to try the preferred Boise 30 recycled content paper, that would be useful for capturing testimonials/anecdotal information.
 - **ACTION ITEM**: Committee members to see about purchasing and using the paper, reporting back at a future committee meeting. Allison Vitt will send link/info about the Boise 30 paper type.
- Allison Vitt: Discussed upcoming Collection Day event taking place on Thursday, December 5 at the O'Connell Center Parking Lot from 7:30 am – 1:00 pm.
 - Event will accept household items, furniture, clothing, food donations, old/broken electronics, household hazardous waste (paint, cleaners, batteries, lightbulbs, auto fluids, pesticides, etc.), school supplies, etc. Open to all students, faculty, staff.
 - Vandana Baweja: Could there be battery/lightbulb collection in colleges/departments throughout the year?
 - Liz Storn: There are issues around collection and storage, and EH&S may not allow it.
 - Dustin Stephany: UF doesn't want people bringing their personal waste to campus – there is a cost associated with disposal that UF pays.
 - Kristin Joys: Regarding increasing student participation in Collection Day, suggested thinking about ways have student-led campaigns, peer-to-peer information, or student ambassadors to make this a norm for disposing of waste/items.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Dustin Stephany, Seconded by Andrew Zimmerman. Meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm.