SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES
2/13/20, 12:30 – 2:30 PM
2345 Reitz Union

ATTENDEES:
David Lucier (Chair), Ariel Pomputius, Jiri Hulcr, Chris Martinez, Vandana Baweja, Dustin Stephany, Ravish Paul, Mehmet Genc, Matthew Williams, Hannah Ulloa, Fiona Hogan

VIA PHONE:
Amy Stein, Kristin Joys, Liz Storn, Leslie Thiele, Lauren Berkow

GUESTS/NON-MEMBERS:
Scott Fox, Debbie Lescault, Zakiya Smith-Dore

CALL TO ORDER:
Technical difficulties, meeting called to order at 12:35 pm (David Lucier, Chair)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Ravish Paul moved to approve minutes from 1/9/20 meeting, seconded by Chris Martinez. Minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION WITH SCOTT FOX

Scott Fox, Director of UF Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) joined the Sustainability Committee to speak to the intersection of sustainability and transportation, related ongoing initiatives, and to answer questions from Sustainability Committee members.

- Scott Fox: Sentiment around bus and public transportation is negative among UF faculty and staff particularly.
- Discussion of challenges members of the committee have had with their own attempts to use RTS and importance of behavior change and communication.
    - Scott Fox: They are trying to find ways to encourage faculty and staff to public transportation. It's important to remember that since RTS receives a lot of their funding from student fees ($9.44 cents per credit hour), it has historically catered its service to the needs of students. He feels confident that they have identified a lot of the reasons RTS doesn't work for faculty and staff in the study conducted for the Transportation Strategic Plan in 2018. They were also able to identify areas where there are dense populations of faculty and staff who don't have access to bus routes. In response to that, starting in August 2019, Route 150 for express service from Haile Plantation to campus was launched. The response to 150 has been very positive and there is lots of ridership. This was a positive indicator for investing in similar services in the future. They are hopeful that they will eventually be able to roll out a route this Fall from the Duckpond area.
- Chris Martinez: Is the Haile Express still running?
    - Scott Fox: Yes, but they are now dealing with the unintended consequences of its success. Haile Village was happy to host the stop until they became worried by having lots of cars parked in front of their businesses all day. TAPS is now exploring the option of using other property for park and ride systems.

- Chris Martinez: In reading the Transportation Master Plan, he was surprised by the high number of faculty and staff who said they wouldn't take public transportation (the bus) no matter what.
    - Scott Fox: Yes, that's been a major barrier.
- Vandana Baweja: There are lots of faculty who live in Florida Park and Forrest Ridge and struggle to find a bus route that works for them in terms of frequency and timing.
    - Scott Fox: It's very expensive to provide service throughout the day from 6 AM to 8 PM. They have considered rolling out service during the windows of 6 AM – 9 AM and 4 PM to 7 PM. Ridesharing would be an option for times between 9 AM and 7 PM. Would that appeal to Vandana, or would it be too disjointed? Additionally, TAPS sells one-day parking permits as another option.
    - An orange decal is $5/day and a green decal is $3/day. You can buy them ahead of time and then scratch off the date you're using it.
- Chris Martinez: He only recently become aware that faculty/staff can use the Campus Connector, but that's another great option.
    - Scott Fox: The original Campus Connector started in August as a response to recommendations made in the 2017 campus Strategic Development Plan. They'll be running two new routes from Garage 14 to campus core.
- Scott Fox: TAPS is constantly trying to adjust service to serve high-performing routes and away from low-performing routes, but everyone wants service during peak hours. Given that the majority of RTS funds from UF is student money, they deserve to participate in deciding how that funding is applied. As other funding is allocated, this can help shift priorities so that faculty and staff can be better serviced.
    - Matt Williams: For context, UF students provided $13.8 million USD to RTS and then UF contributes another $1.5 million so that faculty and staff are able to ride for free. You can see from the difference between those two numbers why RTS has historically catered more to students.
    - Scott Fox: RTS is part of the City of Gainesville and not UF so they have a mandate to provide equitable service. We need to make sure any changes we recommend are respectful to the community's needs.
    - Ravish Paul: How much did Route 150 cost to fund?
    - Scott Fox: It was funded by a $200,000 FDOT grant and matching funds from TAPS. It went over budget, but they were eager to respond to the demand.
- Ariel Pomputius: The Campus Connector is great, especially since she works at the Health Science Center, but is there an app for tracking it? It doesn't seem to have actual stops- how should she flag it down?
    - Scott Fox: There are actual stops for signs. Please look for them. There is also an app that is currently being tested and should be rolled out imminently You can find more information at the TAPS website about stops and the app (check out [this link](#)).

At this point, Scott Fox had to leave to make it to another meeting, however he offered to come back and answer questions or provide information at any point. He suggested checking out the TAPS website for news about exciting new initiatives.

- David Lucier: Are they any other comments or questions about transportation on campus?

- David Lucier: It's important to remember that in our role as the Sustainability Committee, we may not want to be advocating for ride-sharing options (e.g. Uber, Lyft). While it addresses issues with parking, it's not an environmentally friendly option.
  - Matt Williams: It's also a far more expensive option.
- Matt Williams: In the 2018 survey, a lot of faculty/staff said that they *would consider* riding the bus. How can faculty and staff reach out to each other to encourage and normalize that?
  - Ariel Pomputius: Has renting parking stops away from campus for park and ride systems been considered?
  - Matt Williams: TAPS is continuing to try to find appropriate parking-lot owners (e.g. Businesses, churches) that are willing to partner for a reasonable cost to UF.
  - Zakiya Smith-Dore: Putting more park and ride set-ups at the edges of campus sounds like an ideal option.
  - Matt Williams: That is also being considered.
- Dustin Stephany: He has been using ZimRide for the past six years to carpool and has had pleasant experiences sharing his commute with someone else. Users can share information about their commute and the app connects you with other people with similar commutes. It seems underused by campus community members.
- David Lucier: Would the Sustainability Committee be interested in inviting Scott to return?
  - Dustin Stephany: He would be interested, especially when it comes to learning more about how open RTS is to having mini-buses and other micro-mobility modes of transportation.
    - Matt Williams: There is a new position with the City of Gainesville that was just filled and focuses on mobility. They've been working on door-to-door pickups in east Gainesville. They size the buses based on ridership.
- David Lucier: There are lots of gaps in communication pertaining to this issue. Would we like to have a sub-committee to help look at how to affect change with those gaps?
  - Chris Martinez: Does transportation get mentioned in employee orientation?
    - Matt Williams: Yes, within some areas of campus, but not certain about what's in the newly updated Central HR orientation.
- Ariel Pomputius: It might be useful to ensure there is information at the parking office to remind people they can ride the bus for free.
- Matt Williams: We have a lot of opportunity to affect change when it comes to peer-to-peer connection with other faculty/staff. Giving positive testimonials to normalize alternative commuting like ZimRide and public transportation would be helpful. Let's find champions for alternative commuting and dig into this issue further.
  - David Lucier: For our next meeting, let's all plan to reach out to peers and think about this issue further.
  - Hannah Ulloa: In a lot of the conversations about communication around this topic we focused on communicating to improve awareness, but not much discussion of how to overcome barriers. She suggests that if members go and talk to their peers, they should ask about the barriers keeping people from more sustainable transportation options.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- David Lucier: Do we have an update from the Glitter Committee?
  - Ariel Pomputius: There is no update, need connection to student groups and SG that Hannah Ulloa will help with.
- David Lucier: Agenda item submitted by Jiri Hulcr- a discussion of UF's electric vehicle (EV) policy and goals for departments
  - Jiri Hulcr: What sort of language should he be using to help his department with EV's on campus? Are there goals or obstacles he should be aware of?
    - Matt Williams: Senior Vice President Dr. Charlie Lane set a goal in 2015 for 10% of UF's fleet to be EV by 2025. This led to an updated Approved Vehicle List (see here) that included EV options. It also led to the expansion of EV charging stations on campus. Golf carts and other low-speed vehicles (LSV) are a different issue and there is a need to develop further policies to regulate them. They frequently block ADA access and are parked in places where they become obstacles. There are street legal LSVs that are approved options on the Approved Vehicle List that are better options. Another issue is that departments with EVs want preferred parking and charging to accommodate them, but that is not an option. Electric chargers need to be equitably shared among campus members.
  - Ariel Pomputius: Is there a golf cart safety course that can educate campus members about where/how they can park?
    - Matt Williams: There might be one run by Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) since they have van-driving and forklift-driving courses, but he is unsure. This would be a great idea.
  - Jiri Hulcr: Is there a way to get a dedicated parking and charging spot?
    - Matt Williams: Departments already have the option to pay to purchase a reserved parking spot (it costs about $10,000 annually), but departments will not be allowed to install their own charging station. Campus vehicles should be charged at EV charging stations when other users aren't using them to ensure equitable access.
    - Jiri Hulcr: Why can't they have dedicated EV charging stations?
    - Matt Williams: There are infrastructure barriers relating to supplying electricity to the charger. It costs about $20,000 to run electricity to a charger. This is one of the reasons there are not outside outlets on campus because of issues/costs of abusing them.
  - Matt Williams: Campus Cab is a great alternative to golf carts though and the cost of one vehicle could fund a Campus Cab driver for a year. It's also important to remember there is a cap on the UF campus fleet- no more than 1,700 vehicles (including golf carts, LSVs, and EVs.) Soon golf carts will not be able to travel through the core of campus, too, so that might affect decision making.
  - Fiona Hogan: In discussing EV infrastructure, let's make sure we're considering the issue with the lens of equity. We don't want EV infrastructure on campus that only caters to wealthier, more privileged people (i.e. reserved charging stations).
  - Jiri Hulcr: How can he influence the culture in his department so that they see the benefits of EVs as opposed to purchasing more trucks?

- **Matt Williams:** We're trying not to force EVs in areas where people might be put off by a negative experience. For a lot of field-based sciences, EVs might not be the best option right now and there are other departments better suited to adopting EVs. Facilities Services have small EV pickups, but they're not suited to the needs of some field-based sciences. In that case, they're waiting for technology to catch up a bit.
  - Chris Martinez: It seems to be difficult to compete with cheaper, old vehicles when it comes to encouraging EV adoption.
    - **David Lucier:** He strongly suggests considering the bus system for on-campus travel.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS:

- Hannah Ulloa: Champions for Change nominations are open until February 21st. The Office of Sustainability in collaboration with the Healthy Gators Coalition will recognize 10-12 individuals in the fields of sustainability or health & wellbeing affiliated with UF. They are seeking more nominations for groups or individuals. Self-nominations are accepted.
  - Matt Williams: At next month's Sustainability Committee meeting, we'll be selecting the winners of the Champions for Change awards.
  - Hannah Ulloa: Will be sending out some of the supporting documents to help inform the Committee's selection.
- Matt Williams: There will be a Climate Action Plan (CAP) Listening Session on February 19th, 2020 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Rion Ballroom East. They'll give an overview of campus carbon emissions and then collect input from students, faculty, and staff to understand issues that are important to the UF community. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Ariel Pomputius: What is the Office of Sustainability doing for Earth Day?
  - Hannah Ulloa: Details are still being nailed down, but Campus Earth Week will be from April 6th – 11th. There will be a Sustainability Showcase on April 7th and a campus clean-up event on April 11th. There are lots of other events that will be geared more towards students. They will share more details as plans develop. Please contact her (hulloa@ufl.edu) if there is an event happening that week that should be promoted.

ADJOURNMENT:
Motion to adjourn by Ariel Pomputius, seconded by Ravish Paul. Meeting was adjourned 1:43 PM.