

UF Sustainability Committee - Minutes

9/16/2021, 12:30-2:30

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendees:

Members:

Andrew Zimmerman, Leslie Thiel, Ariel Pomputius, Izzy McAlister, Allen Masters, Kristin E. Joys, H  l  ne Huet, Jodi Chase, Meredith Beaupre, Jeff Boissoneault, Flora Iff-Noel, Matt Williams, Leslie Thiel

Guests/Non-Members:

Liz Storn, Hannah Ulloa,

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:35 (**Ariel Pomputius**, Chair)

Approval of Minutes:

Meredith Beaupre moved to approve the minutes from April 2021. The motion was seconded by **H  l  ne Huet**.

Roundtable Introductions:

All members and guests introduced themselves.

Review of Sustainability Committee charge, role and structure

Matt Williams reviewed the Sustainability Committee charge, role, and structure – see attached presentation

Old Business:

Updates on STARS Sub-Committees

a. Food & Dining

i. Letter of recommendation drafted by **Jeff Boissoneault** & submitted to Dining ITN process

1. **Liz Storn** said that she could see directly where the recommendations were included in the ITN as OoS helped craft some of the ITN language.

b. Academics

i. After discussion with **Meredith Beaupre, Andrew Zimmerman and Ariel Pomputius**, and due to the ongoing Climate Action Plan process which includes an Academic Committee, and near-term Sustainability Plan Process, it was determined to close the Academics Subcommittee at this time through unanimous agreement to avoid duplication of efforts.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) Criteria in UF Investing

- i. **Ariel Pomputius**: Goal is to get a recommendation sent to Faculty Senate to have transparent ESG criteria available through UFICO
- A discussion was held about what information we want to request and what the process could look like. It was determined that we will invite Professor Andrew Winden to present to the Sustainability Committee at the October meeting to discuss ESG and other sustainable investing standards. Additionally, the Intentional Endowments Network, a group that works with universities and colleges to help get ESG commitments into endowments. After the October meeting, a subcommittee will draft a resolution to present to the Infrastructure Council and then to the Faculty Senate. The importance of including students and student groups to keep this proposal moving forward was discussed, along with the mention that the two students appointed by Student Government to be on the Sustainability Committee have backgrounds in finance.

Glitter Committee

- i. **Andrew Zimmerman**: Didn't notice any glitter at this springs' events.

New Business

Ariel Pomputius asked for any business that the rest of the committee would like to discuss

1. **Izzy McAlister:** Would like to see a change in how all of campus manages stormwater -> PDC has a very limited scope in terms of how they design projects. **Ariel Pomputius** mentioned that it might make sense to work with Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee as well on the topic of Lake Alice/stormwater issues as this may be more in their area.
 - i. **Liz Storn** will reach out to Izzy to schedule a time to discuss the issues with the committee.
2. **Hélène Huet:** Would love to see more improvements with RTS, e.g. equity and access, need for car, etc. A wide variety of sustainable transportation topics were discussed including RTS, electric vehicles, bike and pedestrian safety, and on-campus transportation including the Campus Connector. Scott Fox with Transportation and Parking Services talked with the committee in the past – it may make sense to ask Scott to come back again and discuss some of the areas in more detail. **Matt Williams** also mentioned that the Climate Action Plan will include goals to increase alternative transportation usage for UF, which may be a great area for the Sustainability Committee to participate in developing solutions and ideas, particularly around incentives to using alternative transportation. It was also noted that this may be an area where PATAC and Sustainability Committees can work together.
3. **Flora Iff-Noel:** Can we see the Carbon footprint of UF? Use this to prioritize the goals of committee
 - i. **Matt Williams:** We will follow-up and provide that information. Generally, 77% of energy, 15.5% is faculty & staff
 - ii. **Flora Iff-Noel:** also question about temperatures
 1. **Matt Williams:** Explained that it is more efficient to have it colder based on the way that the system
 2. **Meredith Beaupre:** also noted that there are secondary affects – mold when AC was shut down for a significant portion of time.

Roundtable updates

1. **Matt Williams** - Office of Sustainability:
 - i. Climate Action Plan
 - In progress, 6 working groups helping develop goals, strategies, and actions. We will be sharing the Draft Goals & Strategies with committee members for input to help identify gaps, opportunities, and refinement.
 - ii. Waste & Behavior education project
 - Working with consultant to look at waste and behavior change, and specifically consistent messaging for recycling. There is currently a pilot at Library west with surveys about messaging. We are also looking at how to expand recycling and composting across campus.
 - iii. Solar
 - We are figuring out how to expand solar on campus, which is essentially a financing issue
 - iv. STARS
 - UF received a Silver rating with our current submission, and we're thinking about how to improve our submission for the next round – likely to submit in 2 to 3 years.
 - v. Electric Vehicle goal
 - We have a goal of 10% of the fleet being electric vehicles by 2025, and we are working with departments to get more EVs on campus
 - vi. EV Charging Infrastructure
 - We will be revisiting our electric vehicle charging infrastructure with Planning Design and Construction, Facilities Services and Transportation and Parking about how to plan for and maintain charging stations. We currently see ~800 unique users of the charging infrastructure
 - vii. AASHE Conference
 - Office of Sustainability is a host sponsor for the annual AASHE conference, October 12-14, so everyone with at UFL email address can register for free and have access to all of the sessions through December 31.
2. **Ariel Pomputius** - Libraries
 - i. Starting back up Wellness Team, and working on having safe in-person events.
 - ii. Library green teams collecting for Tools for Schools
3. **Flora Iff-Noel** asked about what has been done about sustainable food?

The committee discussed steps that have already been taken by Gator Dining and Business Services including getting rid of Styrofoam and plastic bags (2011, 2013), switching to compostable cups and compostable materials, and providing increased plant-forward meals and menus. COVID has created some challenges with the need for more to-go meals and disposables. Gator Dining has worked hard to procure compostable products for as many of these products as possible, but they are using more disposable products than prior to COVID.

Matt Williams noted that waste is a big part of the ITN for the next dining vendor. **Ariel Pomputius** asked when will the new dining provider be chosen? **Matt Williams** said that he thought that the proposals are due October 15, with approximately 1-2 months for selection and negotiations. The provider will start in June.

Adjournment

Jeff Boissoneault motioned to adjourn, **Meredith Beaupre** seconded
Meeting adjourned at 2:29