

UF Joint Sustainability Committee Meeting
02-14-2019
12:30-2:30pm
Reitz Union Matthews Suite

Attendees:

David Lucier
John Duncan
Amulya Dhulipala
Terry Harpold
Matt Williams
Allison Vitt
Maya Patel
Corey Farmer
Dustin Stephany
Ravish Paul
Prabir Barooah
Les Thiele
Wilcley Lima
Mahmet Genc

Phone:

Ravi Srinivasan
Liz Storn
Lauren Berkow
Amy Stein
Jiri Hulcr

1. Welcome
2. Office of Sustainability Update
 - a. Introduction of Corey Farmer – new Climate Coordinator
 - i. Corey will be leading the greenhouse gas inventory process as well as other relevant projects
 - b. Matt Williams will present to the Faculty Senate Feb 21 on campus carbon neutrality goal
 - c. Champions for Change nomination period is open
 - i. Committee members encouraged to submit nominations or reach out to potential candidates to self-nominate
 - ii. Nomination period closes Friday March 1
 - d. Campus Earth Week is being finalized – Allison Vitt will send information to the committee
 - e. GROW office certification program update
 - i. 16 offices have fully completed the process

- ii. 6 offices are awaiting final reports
 - iii. 3 offices are currently in progress
 - iv. Campus Libraries group is interested in joining the program
- f. March is Campus Bike Month (and Florida and City of Gainesville)
 - i. Focus is on cycle commuting as a form of transportation for faculty, staff and students
 - ii. Events will include commuter maintenance class, bicycle safety class, bike to campus day, Light giveaway with UPD
 - iii. Details at bikes.ufl.edu
- 3. Experiential Education Initiative Update - Les Thiele
 - a. Four directors of academic sustainability-related programs have been invited to meet
 - i. Bahar Amarghani – Sustainability in the Built Environment degree program - College of Design, Construction, and Planning (DCP)
 - ii. Kirk Hatfield – Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment (ESSIE)
 - iii. Tom Frazer – School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE)
 - iv. Les Thiele – Sustainability Studies degree program – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)
 - v. Meeting will be held next week to explore possibilities
 - 1. Creation of internship-like courses for students to work with faculty conducting sustainability related research, and community and campus engagement projects
 - 2. CLAS is piloting a course to train students in preparation for the experiential partnerships with professional development for working with other organizations
 - b. There is some interest in a university-wide portal for faculty and students to go to develop future experiential projects
 - i. Could help continue a project beyond single semester as a legacy platform
 - ii. Interest in identifying funding to provide resources to support the program
 - c. In the future a competitive process may be needed for the student participants if the program is successful
 - d. Matthew Williams – requests to be included in any relevant meetings as representative of the operations side and in parallel with the Office of Sustainability’s charge to encourage this type of development
 - e. Ravi Srinivasan – May want to include Dr. Charles Kibert (early leader in campus sustainability)
 - f. Terry Harpold – What would be the relationship of this project to individual faculty “service projects” for specific extant classes?
 - i. Les Thiele – this type of experience might be a good feeder for the more involved experiential learning courses being developed
 - ii. Matt Williams – will be important to keep in mind the impact on the community and relevant groups working in the community-, Brown Center for Leadership and Service has been surveying community partners to find that some academic service projects are not meeting community-level needs in their delivery

- g. Wilcley Lima – What is the proposed timeframe to launch?
 - i. Les Thiele – earliest potential for a pilot program is spring or fall 2020
 - h. Ravi Srinivasan – may be possible to observe the capstone project model in use in the Sustainability in the Built Environment program as a helpful example
 - i. Les Thiele – the capstone model is being encouraged for other departments at the moment
 - i. John Duncan – committee member roll-on will take place in 2019; will be valuable to have faculty identified that will be a positive resource in developing this initiative
 - i. Matt Williams – working to have a conversation with faculty senate Nominating Committee on this topic
4. Review of Gainesville plastic bag and Styrofoam ban
- a. This has been passed by the city and will begin enforcement in August 2019
 - b. Matthew Williams provided a campus update
 - i. The Office of Sustainability has begun working to establish campus as a strong collaborative partner with the city on this issue
 - ii. Gator Dining is already in compliance
 - iii. Contact has been made to all entities on campus that use plastic bags and styrofoam products
 - iv. Office Depot/Mister Paper will be contacted to potentially remove these products from their online store front in myUF Market
 - v. County is expected to take up this topic in March and is expected it to pass it
 - vi. Office of Sustainability and University Relations will be issuing a public statement about this in the future
 - c. Previously established effort for committee members to identify other models on campuses around the country is currently on-hold as the situation develops locally
 - d. Suggestion that there may be an opportunity for the committee to make a statement in support of campus moving forward with adoption of these policies
 - i. Les Thiele proposed language:
 - 1. The UF Sustainability Committee, while recognizing that state law does not require UF to comply with Gainesville ordinance 170487 regarding plastics bags and Styrofoam, strongly encourages and supports all UF administration, faculty, staff, student and visitors to make the greater Gainesville area styrofoam and plastic bag free.
 - a. Motion Ravish Paul
 - b. Second Terry Harpold
 - c. Unanimously passed by committee
 - e. Shands and Greek life are most potentially problematic stakeholders identified
 - i. Lauren Berkow updated that retail vendors at Shands properties will participate; cafeteria is looking at removing plastic bags in use but currently is using primarily paper products
 - 1. Patient care side has only 4 styrofoam products in use
 - 2. Staff side has many Styrofoam products in use
 - 3. Expectation that Shands will participate to the extent possible

- ii. Allison Vitt – a student intern with OOS is making inroads with the Greek community on this topic

5. Updates Around the Board

- a. Amy Stein – Law School Dean has committed to quadruple capacity of current solar installation
 - i. This will be the largest solar array purchased by a department on campus
 - ii. PIEC was a success
- b. Ravish Paul – introduced Prabir Barooah, Associate Professor at the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
 - i. He has joined the Gainesville Bicycle Club and sold his car
 - ii. His research is focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy integration
 - 1. Develops algorithms to help HVAC systems run more efficiently
 - 2. Has converted Pugh Hall into a living laboratory to run it more efficiently than the stock control systems
 - a. New algorithms have shown approx. 30% energy savings
 - b. Project is expanding to Innovation Hub on SW 2nd Ave
 - i. Focus on ensuring comfort of building occupants while maintaining efficiency
 - ii. Project is funded by Florida Dept. of Consumer Services
National science foundation
 - 3. Also working to address issues with solar power availability to avoid pure reliance on batteries
 - a. Working on thermal storage in campus buildings
 - i. Buildings as batteries
 - b. May also be able to reduce downtime through power grid connection across wide geographical swaths
 - 4. Discussion of value of data to support policy decisions
 - 5. These projects may yield opportunities for the experiential learning project
 - iii. Wilcley Lima – there is desire and funding in campus dining for this type of initiative
- c. Les Thiele – a talk on climate change by an economist is taking place today in 232 Bryant Hall at 2:00pm
- d. Terry Harpold – Discussion of Our Children’s Trust non-profit that is spearheading state and federal cases brought by youth against government entities
 - i. Youth assert that they deserve a stable climate to grow up in
 - ii. Video of their talk is available on the ICC website
 - iii. Paris to Pittsburgh movie features this group; March 22nd viewing is being planned locally
- e. Mahmet Genc – Discussion of bicycling safety and route-finding resources available to campus
- f. Wilcley Lima – consultants have been selected for the Dining & Foodservices Strategic Plan
 - i. Campus wide survey will be conducted, hopefully mid-March

- ii. Will be moving forward with composting/recycling station in Reitz union food court
 - 1. Likely to launch in summer
 - g. Matt Williams – RFP for consultant for recycling/waste marketing and communication will be going live shortly
- 6. Meeting adjourned 2:01pm
 - a. Motion Wilcley Lima
 - b. Second Ravish Paul
 - c. Unanimously approved by committee