

## UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

3/21/2024, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

### **Attendance**

**Members:** Angie Brown, Jodi Chase, Nancy Clark, John Duncan, Jeanne Ewert, Craig Money Penny, Flora Iff-Noel, Nina Stoyana-Rosenzweig, Scarlet Seymour, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Matt Williams

**Excused:** Kristin Joys, Mariela Pajuelo, Andrew Zimmerman, Jessica Sheffield, Leslie Thiele

**Absent:** Creed Greer

**Guests/Non-Members:** Liz Storn, Kaylee August, Isabelle Southern, Dustin Stephany, John Lawson

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 PM by **John Duncan**.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Scarlet Seymour** moved to approve the minutes from January 18, 2024. The motion was seconded by **Jeanne Ewert**.

### **New Business**

*Sustainable Building Presentation - Dustin Stephany and Isabelle Southern*

**Isabelle Southern** discussed the Basic Sciences First Floor renovation, which was completed in 2021. The renovation was the first of any UF building project to be evaluated in LEED version 4 Commercial Interiors, and was certified Gold. The project partnered with Walker Architects. The renovated space has new faculty offices and workspaces which support research in UF's Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program. The building's interior included efficient lighting systems that save 16% in energy costs, and utilize EPA WaterSense fixtures that use at least 20% less water than conventional products. 80% of on-site waste generated was recycled, including the wood pallets that carried materials to the site, allowing for 34 tons of material to be saved from landfills.

**Liz Storn** asked if recycling of wood pallets would be used in other UF building projects. **Dustin Stephany** answered that a larger project with UF facilities had recently found the recycling to be very difficult to implement, and that further partnerships on building projects would be chosen and planned carefully.

### **Old Business**

*Update on Gateway projects*

**Dustin** publicly shared the gateway SITES documentation discussed at a previous meeting at this link: <https://facilities.ufl.edu/sustainability/certified-sustainable-buildings/>. In further regards to the gateway project, he also mentioned that there were battery issues with Facilities Service Grounds' electric zero turn mower that is preventing its use.

#### *Champions for Change*

**Liz** shared the results of the Champions for Change nominee voting, and opened the floor for discussion. The members of the meeting agreed that the top four nominees with the most votes would receive awards, and **John Duncan** moved to re-vote for the fifth award to break a four-way tie. **Nina Stoyne-Rosenzweig** advocated for Ron Chandler for his work in creating a UNESCO heritage site for Asian Elephants, and **Jeanne Ewert** seconded her statement. **Jessica-Jean Stonecipher** made the point that Augustus Hoff may be a good choice, to highlight work by an undergraduate student. The re-vote resulted in a tie between Augustus and Ron, leading to a second vote which Augustus won. **Flora Iff-Noel** motioned to approve the five award recipients, which was seconded by **Angie Brown**. **John** asked about the invitations for the event, to which **Kaylee August** responded that they would be sent out by the following week.

#### *Climate Action Plan Implementation - Committee Project Updates*

##### *Compilation of sustainability courses*

**Liz** spoke on behalf of **Andrew Zimmerman**, who found that compiling syllabi on sustainability courses is an uncharted task. **Liz** also discussed an email from **Mariela Pajuelo**, who had reached out to the Provost Office who also confirmed that there is no established way to compile syllabi of courses that have climate change attributes. **Matt Williams** responded that his office would continue to look for a way to find the courses, and **Angie** added that reaching out to the AI Initiative might make the process easier.

##### *Sustainability Updates for Department Heads*

**Liz** mentioned that she is still working on the next steps for evaluating the list generated by the breakout room during the February committee meeting.

#### **Office of Sustainability Updates**

**Liz** announced that Food Waste Prevention Week will take place from April 2nd-April 7th, with different volunteer activities that the committee is partnered with and members can participate in.

**Kaylee** discussed the Sustainability Showcase, which will take place outside the Reitz Union on April 16th from 11am-2pm. She shared the link to the tabling request form for student organizations:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6IETHbqG5EMB2UWgTOFpPVvZnyewA7vjjanxpK2W5InrMQQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6IETHbqG5EMB2UWgTOFpPVvZnyewA7vjjanxpK2W5InrMQQ/viewform?usp=sf_link).

**Liz** also shared a link for any members who know of groups that are hosting sustainability-themed events during Earth Month, so that the Office of Sustainability can feature them on their website:

<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/2024/02/25/uf-earth-month-2024/>.

#### **Roundtable Discussion**

**Nancy Clark** announced a new sustainability symposium, created in partnership with the College of Design, Construction and Planning Ambassador at the Center for Undergraduate Research. The event will feature six students who will present their projects at the Reitz Union, Rm 2340, on April 2nd, from 5-7 pm. She expressed further plans to create a longer symposium that features more University Scholars Program awardees if this event goes well.

**Jodi Chase** asked if the Surplus warehouse was doing their collection as part of Earth Day, to which **Liz** answered that it had not occurred since 2019, and that that collaborative event with the Office of Sustainability was not happening but that Surplus may be doing their own smaller event.

**John** announced that he is attending a sustainability panel as part of the Association of College Unions International conference in Denver.

**Flora** had a question about the UF Bikes program, and **Matt** answered that the office's Bike Coordinator, Brady, and Bike Mechanic, Stan, were working on preparing multiple department bikes, and editing the software on the request form.

**Craig Moneypenny** asked about the plans for UF's new golfing facilities, to which **Matt** answered that the acquisition of land may not be completed.

**Jessica-Jean** mentioned the Fulbright Global Challenges Teaching Awards - <https://www.aacu.org/initiatives/virtual-exchange-collaborative-online-international-learning/fulbright-us-uk-global-challenges-teaching-awards>. She explained that instructors can submit information on the challenges their classes face, and request a virtual cultural exchange.

**John** asked about the April meeting, to which **Liz** answered that voting for the chair would likely be on the agenda, and that April will likely be the last meeting until the Fall.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Jessica-Jean** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:23 pm, which was seconded by **Nina**.