

Minutes

Monday, November 5, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Administrative Services III, Room 110

Attendance

Bill Winner, Tracy Dixon, Caroline Hansley, Sharon Loosman, Barry Olson, Taylor High, Claudia Powell, Paul McConocha, Lindsay Batchelor, Cameron Jetton, Connor Dorsch, Jeff Hightower, Liz Bowen, Lisa Johnson, Brian O’Sullivan, Lisa Maune, Sarah Ketchum, Carla Davis, Megan Cain

Welcome – Bill Winner

- Welcome new CEST members
 - Cameron Jetton, Student Government Sustainability Commission
 - Connor Dorsch, Student Government Sustainability Commission

Tactics Reminder – Bill Winner

- Working groups are reminded to update their tactics if they haven’t already.
 - Purchasing and Waste Reduction have met, and tactics will be updated.
 - Transportation tactics have been submitted.
 - Academics and Research – analyzing student credit hours against sustainability parameters and how those relationships have changed over time. Analysis will also be done.

Procurement regulation progress – Sharon Loosman and Caroline Hansley

- Analysis of Purchasing vendors’ environmental policies is underway, starting with a sustainability survey that was sent to 33 vendors, of which 20 responded with the following information:
 - 9 out of 20 can limit catalogs to only sustainable items
 - 7 of 20 can highlight sustainable items only
 - 9 of 20 use biodegradable shipping products
 - 2 of 20 have done an environmental life-cycle analysis (this is an area for improvement)
- Focus for developing guidelines will be commodity-centric with these commodities receiving initial attention: paper, office supplies, appliances, computers, lumber, furniture, cleaning supplies
 - Paper, appliances and computers are already under executive order for improvement.
 - Work is underway with Facilities concerning purchase of lumber and cleaning supplies.
- Question: How broad-reaching will this work be? Does this include everything from departmental purchases to the items available for purchase in campus C-Stores? Answer: Products sold by Campus Enterprise (e.g. C-Stores) are not included in this since their purchasing functions differently. Initial target are products purchased by departments in amounts under \$5,000 (this accounts for 80 percent of campus purchases).
- Next steps:
 - Completing sustainable Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
 - Working with Wolfcopy to establish defaults to double-sided printing and phasing out deskside printing.
 - Developing a contractual language glossary to explain sustainability terms (e.g. FSC, etc.).
 - Streamlining the Marketplace and updating website to educate about sustainable product options.

- Question: Will we be adding cross-vendor search to Marketplace so that sustainable products are featured including lifecycle cost, etc.? Answer: All non-eco products cannot be removed from Marketplace since individuals might begin purchasing products outside the Marketplace if the desired product wasn't available. They will work to highlight sustainable products so they receive more attention.
- Question: How to address "green washing" and validate the vendors' sustainability claims? Answer: One of the questions in the sustainability survey was "Are your products certified by a third party system?"
- Question: How will new Business Operation Centers impact the implementation of these guidelines? Answer: It remains to be seen. Hoping the Centers will accept purchasing guidelines.
- Feedback: Pursue baseline cost measurements and lifecycle cost now so that return on investment can be documented later to see how new guidelines are saving money.

Process for moving sustainability policy ahead – Tracy Dixon

- Strategic Sustainability Plan calls for developing a sustainability policy about the university's intentions around sustainability. This policy is being finalized and should be up for Board of Trustee approval in February or April.
- Related documents to the policy are Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for procurement and energy. These SOPs can be adopted separate from the sustainability policy with no Board of Trustee approval. Timeline to be determined.

Announcements

- Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for 11 megawatt Cates Cogeneration Utility Plant will be on Wednesday, Nov. 14 from 2-4 p.m.
 - Question: Any plans for cogeneration on Centennial Campus? Answer: There is a possibility that another cogeneration project will be done on Centennial Campus (\$10-12 million estimated cost) plus smart grid in the future.
- The Fee Review Committee and the Chancellor approved a \$3/year/student sustainability fee pending approval by the Board of Trustees (November) and Board of Governors (February).
- The Annual Sustainability Report is in final review and will be presented to the Chancellor at the Cates Cogeneration Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.
- Megan Cain of the University Sustainability Office is leaving in February to join the Peace Corps. Applications are being accepted now for her replacement.
- There is a renewed possibility of a learning and living village around sustainability. Several years ago this was discussed but funding wasn't available. Conversation has started again related to Bragaw Residence Hall.
- Physical Master Plan listening sessions are happening now, and sustainability is among the topics discussed. Remaining workshops are Nov. 8 (North Campus workshop, 4-6 p.m. in 104 Fox Teaching Labs), Nov. 13 (West Campus workshop, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Arboretum's Ruby McSwain Education Center) and Nov. 27 (Central Campus workshop, 3-5 p.m. in Carmichael Recreation Center's Playzone). Task forces will form in January to take the feedback further.
- Campus life, housing and Greek life expect to hire a new energy manager within the month.
- Winter Holiday Energy Setback is coming. Initial email for building exemptions goes out next week.

Next Meeting is December 12.