

Minutes

January 21, 10:30 – 12:00
Administrative Services III, Room 301

Attendance

Jack Colby, Heather Troutman, Lisa Johnson, Meghan Lobsinger, Lindsay Batchelor, Paul McConocha, Traci Rose Rider, Dick Bernhard, Tracy Dixon, Bill Winner, Sean Fokes, Claudia Powell, Analis Fulghum, Brian O’Sullivan, Laura Browning, Mike Kapp, Carla Davis, Rebekah Dunstan, Terry Allen, Kristin Vickers, Mike Harwood, Brian Jones

Sustainability Policy and SOP – Jack Colby

- The Sustainability Policy is on the agenda for February Building and Properties Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees. The committee is the final step in the approval process.
- The Sustainability SOP is in near final approval stages and plans are being made for how to make the campus aware of the new SOP.
- The Policy and SOP are the final foundational documents to advancing sustainability on campus and making NC State leaner, smarter and stronger.

Meet an NC State Steward- Heather Troutman

- Working on a project about limiting single-use plastics on campus. This semester’s focus is on community awareness and trying to rally support among students, faculty and staff. A lot of education is still needed. Tactics include pledges, art displays, etc. Examples: Maryland has to pay extra for plastic bags. Several California cities have put plastic bans in place.
- Still working to find an alternative solution to plastic bags that is economically viable for campus, as well as changing expectations of students who have come to expect single-use plastic as free and readily available.
- Four new recycling bins for plastic bags have been placed on campus as a pilot project.
- The Stewards are interested in having CEST members come to their meeting, so CEST members may be asked to attend a Stewards meeting.

Vote on Sustainability Guiding Principle and updates in Physical Master Plan –Tracy Dixon

- Paul motioned to approve the language. Dick seconded.
- Motion passes and CEST approves sustainability information proposed for Physical Master Plan

Mid-Year Update from Working Group Chairs

- Community and Culture (Tracy Dixon): Everything is on track. The biggest tactics are the sustainability policy and SOP, revamped Change Your State, launch of NC State Stewards, sustainable workplace certification. Still to work on integrating sustainability with new employees through the Onboarding Center, investments, and next round of CEST appointments.
- Land Use (Lisa Johnson): The Physical Master Plan should be published in May. Space management software has been implemented on campus and training is underway. This software enables space and people to be “tagged” so that inefficiencies in space management can be determined. Starting to sequence projects in the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan so more implementation occurs. Still to come: establishment of storm water working group on campus.

- Energy and Water (Paul McConocha): Working toward 27 tactics and have measurable progress in 80 percent of them. Energy Management is using more students than ever to reduce utility usage on campus. Some students will be working on a project to shut fume hood sashes on Friday afternoons.
- Transportation (Brian O'Sullivan): Continue to work on implementing various campus plans related to transportation planning and promoting alternative transportation.
- Waste Reduction (Analis Fulghum) Major projects include implementation of GIS and weight scales on campus trucks for better data management, exploring ways to collect more composting on campus (e.g. pizza boxes in residence halls, incorporating compostable waste from Rave catering), improving reporting of campus construction and demolition waste that is being diverted from landfills.
- Purchasing (Kristin Vickers) University vendors related to contracts worth more than \$5,000 now include language about waste reduction and recycling. Purchasing is working more on advertising Surplus sales.
- Academics and research (Traci Rose Rider): Sustainability representatives from almost every academic college are involved in regular meetings.
- Tactic updates (when available) for other categories will be listed online.

Other Updates

- Kevin MacNaughton is the interim for Terry Feravich, who was leading sustainability at a UNC system level. Kevin is also helping structure a group of sustainability directors and officers from UNC system schools, as well as implementing system-wide sustainability policy.
- University utility budget has been cut by \$1.5 million. Efforts are being made to reduce energy and water consumption in order to avoid a budget shortfall. Typically, the utility budget had excess, which was reinvested into campus energy and water saving projects. If a shortfall does occur, NC State will have to reallocate funds. CEST members have been asked to spread the word on campus about the importance of energy and water conservation during the spring semester.

Informational items

- Due to deadlines the continued composting in residence halls conversation will move to the February meeting.
- Results of Winter Holiday Energy Setback: avoided \$288,590 in utility cost this winter, cumulatively since 2004 the initiative avoided close to \$2.5 million.
- Sustainability policy headed to BOT in early February. SOP will be forwarded to VC Leffler and Provost Arden for signature.
- The Sustainability Fund will announce the first annual request for proposals to advance sustainability issues on campus in January/early Feb. This RFP is specifically for short duration (one year maximum) projects that have high immediate impact or that lead to the development of longer projects that have significant potential for high impact. Projects can focus on education, outreach, infrastructure or any other component of campus sustainability.
- Projecting a utility budget deficit by year end. Planning a more aggressive energy management and call to action for campus.
- Energy Summit mid-year meeting is Feb. 25 at NC A&T.
- 2012-13 Annual Sustainability Report is being audited by PCOM auditing class. Working to get a final presentation to the CEST in early April.
- Earth Month planning in full swing. Earth Day festival on Brickyard will be April 9.