

Minutes

November 7, 2014, 10:30 -12:00 PM
301 Administrative Services III

Attending

Nate Pedder, Eric Rizzo, Jackson Williams, Lib McGowan, Jack Colby, Paul McConocha, Sean Fokes, Tracy Dixon, Jeff Hightower, Dick Bernhard, Walt Robinson, Claudia Powell, Robert Davis, Keith Smith, Meghan Lobsinger, Analis Fulghum, Bill Winner, Louis Bailey, Michael Ousdahl, Tom Karches, Jeannette Powell

Welcome and introductions – Jack Colby

- Welcome to Nate Pedder from Student Government
- Look at Sustainability Report to reflect on previous year

Congratulatory Letter from Chancellor Woodson – Jack Colby

- See letter
- Jack read letter from Chancellor Woodson, congratulating CEST on the APPA Sustainability Award
- APPA represents 1500 institutions across the US

Meet an NC State Steward – Jackson Williams

- Currently in First Year College
 - Wants to pursue Electrical Engineering with Renewable Energy Concentration
 - Also interested in Sustainable Energy Minor
- Joined the NC State Stewards to gain a broader perspective on sustainability
- In the energy project group
 - Currently drafting proposal for a solar power station to be on central campus, near the Tri Towers

National sustainability data reporting/STARS overview – Tracy Dixon

- See presentation
- STARS is Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System
- In 2008, there were nearly a dozen different scorecards asking for sustainability reporting. Jack, Bill and Tracy decided to report to focus on STARS and the Princeton Review to ensure publicly reported data but to allow more time on implementation of activities.
- STARS provides public sustainability data on its 673 reporting organizations
- NC State's current STARS report can be found online.
 - Good for three years. Since it was submitted in April 2011, it expires and we must revise
 - Currently a "Reporter" meaning we do not have a rating
 - In 2011 we said with the next STARS submission we would go after a rating
 - Can be rated Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum
- STARS categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, Planning & Admin, Innovation
- Different point amounts awarded to different checklist items
- Areas of Strength last time: High score in planning and engagement, operations

- STARS members in UNC system: ASU (gold), UNCCH (gold), UNCG (silver), NCSU (Reporter), Fayetteville State (Reporter), Revising/Registering: UNCC, UNCW, UNCA, ECU, ECSU, NC A&T
- Michael: How do they measure support?
 - Tracy: Support measured by looking at the different university offices to support different areas (example: Office of Multicultural Student Affairs provides support to multicultural students). Need to check on specifics about transportation credit support.
- Keith: Are you trying to go for platinum, gold or silver?
 - Tracy: We have not stated at what level we are aiming, just that we will go for a rating. Preliminary review shows we should be at least silver.
 - Jack: There is no prize or award for rating; however, there is a growing interest in perspective students for their university to have a focus on sustainability. We need to represent ourselves to prospective students as a university committed to sustainability.
 - Tracy: No platinum schools yet, highest STARS score obtained was Colorado State.
- Robert: What does reporter mean?
 - Tracy: we didn't click the rate us button, we just wanted to present our data publicly. If we went after a rating, we could gain a better comparison between other schools.
- Third Party Oversight for reporting: We have already started going down that path with the Annual Sustainability Report.

Sustainability office updated mission, vision and values – Tracy Dixon

- See online version of revised office mission, vision, guiding principles, approach: <http://sustainability.ncsu.edu/about/university-sustainability-office>
- Why the change: the Sustainability Office evolved and the old mission and vision does not match what we do.
- Jack: We are now in year four of a five-year strategic plan. We need to look at the next five years of the strategic plan and revise if needed. We have made tremendous progress.
- Bill: How does the CEST distinguish itself from the Sustainability Office? The new mission and vision are those that should be of CEST. The two organizations are too close to distinguished.
 - Robert: The Sustainability Office has made many partnerships, the Staff Senate looks for future partnerships. Appreciates that Sustainability Office has really reached out to students and staff.
 - Tracy: Distinction is that the CEST sets the direction of campus sustainability through strategic planning. The Sustainability Office assists with implementation.
 - Jack: Clarifying roles of the CEST and the Sustainability Office is a good thing and should happen and is a testament to the fact that our sustainability initiatives are working.

- Paul: it would be worthwhile to look at other universities to see how they handle similar situations.

Key Findings from Energy Management Report – Claudia Powell

- See presentation
- Annual Energy & Water report is online
- Energy Management contributes to the Annual Sustainability Report, but also does a more in depth Energy & Water report
- 29% reduction in energy since 2002, adjusted for size
- 46% reduction in water since 2001, goal: 50% by 2015
 - Looking at what went wrong in the increase from 2012/2013 – 2013/2014
 - Walt: Small deviation is not something to worry about. However, the trend looks to be approaching an asymptote, may be due lots of low hanging fruit having been picked. What major change can we do to create another large decrease?
 - Jack: We have seen a decrease in water consumption, but also a large increase in utility pricing. So we need to figure out a way to maintain our utility budget by decreasing the amount of water used. Reused water project in progress on Centennial.
 - Claudia: Autoclaves produce a lot of wastewater, looking at reducing that. Small project, but still valuable.
 - Paul: Digging deeper on this metric to understand how to keep the trend going in the right direction.
- Winter session building set back is on its way, preparing for building shutdowns
 - Successful program, has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
 - Do allow exemptions for special cases – lab experiments, library
 - Jack: Last day before holiday ~400 employees go around and turn off lights and other fixtures. 3 MW of energy goes offline in a matter of a few hours.
 - Bill: Can we use this data to predict this year's savings?
 - Paul: There is a lot that goes on in the calculation but it is taken into consideration for cost avoidance projections.
 - Jack: Already in a deficit in the utilities budget, so any savings would be helpful.
 - Bill: Why the variability between year to year?
 - Paul: It is due to the weather.
 - Jack: Biggest challenge is getting the academic buildings back up and running. To avoid large start-up load, we stagger the start-up. This is why we start earlier than when the new semester begins.
 - Buildings offline: 12/24 – 1/2

Progress of Student Sustainability Fund – Nate Pedder

- Second Year of the Sustainability Fund
- Recap of First Year:
 - Treated it as a pilot program, only allocated \$30,000
 - 23 proposals were received
 - 5 projects were selected
 - Solar Flora
 - Bike Share
 - Community Garden on Vet School campus
 - Solar Trash Compactors (Carmichael Bus stop)

- Food Recovery (pulled out of funding)
- Fee increase to \$4.00 for 2015-2016 and \$4.50 for 2016-2017 approved by Fee Review Committee (fee is currently \$3.00)
- Other schools in North Carolina have a higher fee
 - A higher fee can fund larger projects
- This year, looking to provide \$100,000 - \$120,000 in funding
 - Encouraging larger projects
 - Would like to see more departmental and staff proposals for larger scale projects
 - Must have direct student involvement in project
- Robert: Are you encouraging/reaching out to do projects with faculty and staff senates? Strengthen relationship?
 - Nate: Have not started reaching out, will definitely reach out to those groups
- This year's review board: 5 students, 4 faculty & staff

Greenhouse Gas inventory key findings – Jeff Hightower

- See presentation
- Every 2 years, work with interns to develop Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Initially at 275,000 MTeCO₂, now at 233,627 MTeCO₂
- Reduced 9.6% from last inventory and 13.5% from initial inventory
- This inventory helps find areas for reinvestment
- Walt: Researchers who travel around the world for conferences contribute to greenhouse gas emissions for NC State. There is currently no incentive for researchers not to travel.
- Jack: This is similar to everyday transportation, what incentives are there to use public transportation?
- Keith: Fountain has a digester, we could get someone to collect and give that data to you.

Round Table Updates & Informational Items – Bill Winter & All

- Paul: National Gas Contract through BP energy, got a good price.
- Jack: Funding of the Oval project which will include cogeneration for Centennial Campus
Sean: Tri-Tower Energy Competition – total money saved was ~ \$6,000
- Keith: Dining is partnering more with the Agroecology Farm, funding Hoop House. Hopefully have a barn raising in the next few weeks.
- Tom K: Alternative Vehicle Showcase went really well, had a lot of new cars and other vehicles. Every year there are new options.
- Robert: Invitation to the February, March Staff Senate Meeting
- Walt: Workshops on Water in the Spring, would like to incorporate Facilities
- Michael: submitted a grant for two electric charging stations, targeting main campus. City of Raleigh will be here on November 20 to discuss a bike share program. If implemented, NC State would get 13 stations (5 initially). Fall 2016 is the projection right now.
- Jeannette: Working to improve storm water. Project to track discharges; found some in Rocky Branch that are being corrected.
- Bill: Game Changer Research Grant
- Tracy: meeting time question – continuing Friday meeting time in spring looks to have support from the CEST