Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 @ 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM in Rm 256 IMU

Present: Matthieu Biger, Michelle Fravel, Erin Irish, Laura Ponto, Isabella Blackman, Emily Manders, ??

Absent: Sam Schauer, ??

Liaisons: Stratis Giannakouros (OSE), Don Guckert (FM), ??

Ex Officio: Richard Hichwa (VPR), Glen Rogers (UIHC), Tony Senio (Athletics),??

Staff: Elizabeth Mackenzie, Blake Rupe

Guests: Isaac Podolefsky, Hunter Staszak

1. Teach-In Update (Erin Irish)
   1. Just under $6,000 to go for fundraising
   2. 50 people have submitted topic ideas
   3. Looking for a subcommittee to take ideas and form a schedule
   4. The dance team scheduled to perform for the event will be planting a tree prior to leaving and when arriving as a symbolic effort to recognize the carbon footprint associated with their travel
2. Athletics sustainability task force (Tony Senio)
   1. Group includes student athletes, event manager, coaches, senior administrator, athletic trainers, marketing, IT
   2. Overarching Goals: transition to a committee that will stay around and have a voice to administrators – begin using brand to grow sustainability efforts
   3. Day of Caring – April 26, 2020
      1. Adding a sustainability focused event
      2. 2-3 athletes from each team will be present at the cross-country course
         1. Talk about prairie restoration
         2. Teach about the food chain
         3. Provide ideas to plant pollinators in personal yards
         4. Primary audience will be elementary children to attend to teach them about the food chain – leave them with idea
      3. Pollinator seeds to provide at the event are growing right now (at west branch high school green house)
      4. Considering speakers and involvement of the Raptor Project
   4. Other tasks
      1. Move toward having all athletic events be green events
      2. Address simple things in day-to-day activities among the 250 athletics employees
      3. Examine packaging of foods at the athlete fueling stations
   5. Add composting option for team meals
   6. Consider ideas for carbon offset for athletics travel – for example, add cost to each ticket for tree planting
      1. Current statistic that exists is that ~13,000 acres would be required to cover our current carbon output
3. 2020 Goals Update (Blake Rupe)
   1. Data collection period ended at 2019 – almost all reports received, just waiting on Parking & Transportation report
   2. The progress report is complete currently. It contains narrative background, progress, future goals (20 pages)
   3. 10 minutes will be dedicated to this topic during the earth day activities
   4. This progress report will be updated/finalized full will be at end of 2020 (will take much less work to update)
   5. DEI and Sustainability are required to report out annually
      1. Given templates but strategic communication assistance on this report is not being offered
      2. Stratis Giannakouros will be presenting on May 1
4. 2030 Update (Stratis Giannakouros)
   1. Listening posts will be held February 17/18
   2. This exists as a general framework only at this point
   3. Earth Day – announce some of the details of the 2030 goals; announce goal to pursue involvement with health care and athletics
5. Display/Signage (Isaac Podolefsky)
   1. Significant cost savings with LED monitors due to lower energy use; monitors pay for themselves quickly when switching away from plasma screens
   2. Consider making a recommendation to replace monitors that meet 3-yr return on investment (including installation)
   3. Next steps
      1. Exploratory research to identify overall number of monitors in need of replacement
      2. Identify funding source and/or ways to incentivize departments to pursue these replacements
      3. Plan: Stratis Giannakouros will follow-up with Terry Johnson
6. Committee Website
   1. The impetus for creation of the new committee website was to enhance visibility, as the current website is housed under the Office of Sustainability’s website.
   2. New website address: sustainabilitycommittee.uiowa.edu
      1. Staff in the office of sustainability will work to have the current website re-directed to the new site
7. Upcoming meeting plans
   1. Consider inviting the following individuals to meet with the committee:
      1. Bruce Harreld
      2. Montse Fuentes (Provost)
      3. Suresh Gunasekaran (UIHC CEO)
      4. Kevin Kregal and Cornelia Lang
         1. Need to discuss the sustainability GE effort
      5. Rod Lehnertz
         1. Discuss how the sustainability committee will be involved with the committee tasked with designating use of the money gained from the Private-Public Partnership