

UA Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes – 08 April

2014



Union 503
Tuesday
08 April 2014
3:30-5:00

Agenda

1. Call to order
 - a. Carlos Ochoa called the meeting to order at 3:32 Pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. No modifications were made to the minutes
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. No modifications were made to the agenda
4. Co-chair updates
 - a. Executive Director, Office for Sustainability – Marty Matlock announced that the OFS has been working with the work groups to develop KPIs for the campus. He called for participation of council members in the work groups. He also announced that we have been invited to host a consumer alliance meeting (OFS, Center for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability), 85 supply-chain entities, this summer. He concluded by acknowledging that summer UASC meetings are typically poorly attended, therefore if members know they will not be attending, they should assign a proxy to attend in their stead.
 - b. Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities – Mike Johnson opened by announcing that the Gene Tyson Childhood Development center is now LEED gold certified. The only other building to meet the gold standard is the nanotechnology building. We are still at the silver level on the AASHE STARS rating system, but our goal is gold.
 - i. There was a Newswire article on Monday highlighting the results of the Razors EDGE energy project for the second year: the university saved \$33 million in energy, particularly in HVAC building and automation systems. One major feature is the occupancy sensors that allow for a greater range of room temperature when a room is not occupied, as opposed to turning buildings off at night and on the weekends. Michele Halsell is working on a dissertation that goes more in depth into education and training specifically in an office environment to engage the campus community in sustainability behaviors. We are meeting our goal for energy and we met and

exceeded the guarantee for the project. It is anticipated that we will continue into the third year, saving about \$250,000 a year and paying for the project out of the savings. Various improvements have been made and continue to be made to campus facilities in this regard. The energy savings contracts work so that if initial guarantees are not met, the university is compensated by the contractor, and this has been working well. An inquiry was made as to whether the state has any models for these contracts. Mike Johnson replied that they have a very structured energy savings performance contract format. Recent changes have allowed the annual utility bill to be used for debt service. There are rules and regulations, and the state pool for energy service contractors (ESCOs) was pre-screened and pre-qualified. Dr. Matlock asked for clarification on what we are doing with the money that is being saved. Mike Johnson replied that the savings service the debt on the contract until it is paid, after which point the money will be able to fill existing gaps in renewal and stewardship of facilities. Ultimately the money continues to be reinvested into further energy savings. Since 2002 we have been tracking the university's square footage increasing, the number of students, faculty, and staff increasing, yet electricity consumption has been declining due to the ESCOs and other sustainability efforts. **We are currently working on the combined heat and power gas turbine vessel that generates hot water, which has the potential to reduce our emissions substantially.** Our goal under the Presidents' Climate Commitment is to be back at our 1990 emissions levels by 2021—we are currently set to beat that goal by 4-5 years. It was pointed out that it is necessary to get people trained (specifically in Ozark Hall) to operate the new thermostats. Mike said yes, he believes there is in fact 10-20% further potential savings to be found in training staff and faculty to use the systems properly (for example, eliminating space heater use). Mike clarified as well that the occupancy sensors are connected to both the lights and the HVAC system.

- c. ASG Representative – Elizabeth Hood announced several upcoming ASG-sponsored events. She asked people to spread the word about these events to students.
 - i. There will be a USGBC meeting on April 15th at 11:30, featuring Don Moseley discussing Wal-Mart's approach to its first LEED project.
 - ii. On April 17th at 6:30 there will be a panel discussion titled "Sustainability and Authority" with Marty Matlock, Teresa Marks, and Peter Nierengarten. Refreshments afterwards.
 - iii. Regarding the sustainable investment pilot program, they will soon be finalizing applications, with a hard launch in the fall to be overseen by Elizabeth's successor. Elizabeth thanked Mike Johnson for making this project possible and announced that this will be her last meeting, as she will be graduating in May, and expressed her gratitude for being able to serve as the ASG representative for the council.

5. Workgroup Updates

a. Built Systems

- i. There were no updates from the Built Workgroup, but Carlos Ochoa mentioned their continuing research on the virtual desktop zero client program.

b. Managed Systems

- i. Teresa Erlich is working with Keaton Smith on the green investment fund project. The purpose of this is to increase sustainability projects as well as student faculty and staff involvement.
- ii. Carlos Ochoa introduced the Integrated Pest management Plan, a student-led project in conjunction with Dr. Donn Johnson (Entomology) under the Managed Workgroup, based on one of the AASHE STARS criteria, which asks whether the university has an integrated pest management program. Cory Johnson (senior, Crop Science) was introduced to share findings. According to Cory, the mission is to evaluate the university's current pest management program for grounds and buildings, and to determine more sustainable tactics. University Housing and Facilities Management provided monthly pest occurrence records from 2007-2014. Unidentified insect reportings are common and need to be addressed by improving people's ability to identify pests. They would like to create a web-based application for users to be able to identify and address pest problems. Improved communication would allow for more efficient spot treatment. Strike Three is a particularly hazardous herbicide used on the grounds, and they will be talking to an expert on how to eliminate its usage. Cory showed a video about the PowerTrak pest management system through Orkin. PowerTrak is an electronic record of pests, management tactics, and effectiveness. This is the system they propose we move to.
 1. Dr. Shoulders asked about the cost, and Cory replied that it is included in our contract with Orkin, so we are already paying for it.
 2. A concern was voiced regarding preventative maintenance measures to keep cockroaches from entering through sink drains in Ozark in the summer. This happens due to drying out of traps after lowered usage.
 3. Dr. Jon Johnson asked whether this is an actual alternative to more intensive pest management programs, and Cory replied that reduced levels of pesticide use is a priority, and confirmed that this would represent a reduced intensity of our current system.
 4. Mike Johnson brought up the issue of managing the turf for athletics in a manner that is safe for the people playing on it.
 5. In response to a question it was clarified that the trends shown in the graph are likely at least as indicative of human behavior

and presence as they are of pest behaviors (i.e. the presence of students and others to report incidents).

6. Dr. Matlock asked whether we have identified bedbug problems here, the answer was no. There have been only 4 reports per year but none have been confirmed.
7. Carlos will be sending out the draft plan soon to the co-chairs and the workgroups for review.

c. Social Systems

- i. The social systems group has lost both of its co-chairs (Joanna Pollock and Kate Shoulders).
- ii. One of their projects is **HEAL, the home energy affordability loan program**. Martha J. Murray presented the program to Staff Senate, who liked the idea and suggested that Murray speak at the benefits committee, who invited her to come speak. She made a good impression and the benefits committee would like her to speak to the faculty senate, after which they can determine the next steps.
- iii. Another of their project is a student-run initiative to bring Razorbucks to the farmers market as a way to get students off campus to engage with the rest of the community. This could be integrated with the EBT program they already have in place at the farmers market. Lauren Hake (Residents' Interhall Congress Director of Sustainability) has been working on facilitating this project and learning what it would take to make it a reality.
- iv. Dr. Kate Shoulders mentioned the solar ovens, which were up for Campus Sustainability Day last fall and will be up again for Earth Day. She said they also visited the First South Arkansas Homesteading Conference to educate people about how solar energy can be used by people on their own homesteads. This was a great way to reach out to a wider community beyond Northwest Arkansas.

d. Natural Systems

- i. The Natural Systems Workgroup is also currently lacking co-chairs. Carlos Ochoa received a call from someone interested in studying bird strikes on campus. Dr. Kimberley Smith helps manage an RSO that is interested in doing an analysis of this problem. Carlos is trying to recruit them to be co-chairs of this workgroup.

e. Academic Systems

- i. Dr. Matlock updated the council on enrollment numbers for SUST 1103 and the minor (180 and 126, respectively). He updated the council on the status of the degree proposal; it is in the budgeting phase. The Academic Workgroup is beginning the process of program review for the minor to evaluate student feedback and other indicators and determine what can be improved for the upcoming year.

6. Good-of-the-Order

- a. Earth Day will be hosted April 22nd, 10-2 on the union mall. The Wildlife Society might bring some snakes. Council members were invited to come by,

meet the vendors, and participate in the events. Dr. Matlock called for a round of introductions before the meeting adjourned. There were no further updates.

7. UASC Scheduled Meetings
 - a. 7/8/14 Ozark 102
 - b. 10/14/14 Union 512
8. Adjourn
 - a. Kathleen Lehman motioned to adjourn
 - b. Jon Johnson seconded the motion.
 - c. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 Pm.