

UA Sustainability Council Meeting – 13 January 2015



Union 503
Tuesday
13 January 2015
3:30-5:00

Agenda

1. Call to order
 - a. Marty Matlock called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the October 2014 meeting were approved.
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. The agenda for the current meeting was approved.
4. Co-chair updates
 - a. Executive Director, Office for Sustainability
 - i. Annual Report
 1. Marty Matlock informed the council of the 2014 Annual Report that the Office for Sustainability is currently working on. It will be sent out to the council members for their feedback around the first week of February.
 - ii. Key Performance Indicators
 1. We are in the process of revising our Key Performance Indicators and setting benchmark years for each of them in light of the data that are available to us.
 - iii. Dr. Matlock asked the council for an idea of what it would look like to develop a framework for faculty to self-identify as sustainability faculty for the purpose of research activities. This not only aid in reporting but it would also help to create a sustainability research community at the U of A, which would foster more efficient and innovative collaboration. It would additionally lay a groundwork for research activities within a future School for Sustainability. It was suggested that this be set up as a listserv or another platform that would be open to non-faculty researchers as well and could be opted into or out of. A vote was not taken, but the council was generally in favor of an informal platform and the OFS will explore further.
 - b. Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities
 - i. Mike Johnson gave an update on the Combined Heat and Power system. All of the 1960s and 70s boilers have been removed from the heating plant and they now have 10 new units. These will be far more

effective in managing the campus load more responsively. We do own a gas turbine which will be installed later this spring and we hope to have that operational in the summer. That should reduce our GHG by another 25,000 MT CDE, which will put us much closer to our goal. Advertising and announcing this in the spring and summer will be important.

- ii. Unplug for the Holidays – Facilities Management will be looking at data from the holiday period and reporting back to the council. Facilities will also be looking into consolidating intersession classes into fewer buildings to conserve energy.
- iii. Mike Johnson summarized avenues that are being explored for meeting our goal of being Zero Waste by 2021. We are partnering with the City and others. The Transportation Master Plan survey will be open through January 30th. Anyone who has not yet responded to the survey can find the link on the sustainability.uark.edu homepage.
- iv. Central scheduling has made our class scheduling far more efficient both in the day and evening hours. Another hidden benefit is being explored: there are significantly more empty parking spaces throughout the day as classes are spread out and buildings are used more effectively.

c. ASG Representative

- i. Cameron Baker was unable to attend.

5. Workgroup Updates

a. Built Systems

- i. Jeff Vinger summarized the December Built Systems workgroup meeting.

b. Managed Systems

i. Green Revolving Fund Update

1. Overview of applications and timeline

- a. Keaton Smith stated that three applications have been received. They are being reviewed by the Managed Systems workgroup and they will be meeting this month. They will be making a recommendation of projects to fund.

c. Social Systems

- i. The social systems workgroup has primarily been focused on the UnPlug for the Holidays campaign. We hope to have results for that for the next meeting.

d. Natural Systems

i. Bird Strike Analysis Presentation

- 1. Dr. Kimberly Smith presented the preliminary findings on bird-building collisions in the fall of 2014. The data collection will resume for the spring migration period. A report will then be made to the council which will include recommendations to Facilities Management for changes that could prevent bird strikes on campus.

- e. Academic Systems
 - i. Dr. Boss reported that we have just started the spring semester with 194 students in SUST 1103. Last spring we started with 180 and ended with 169 in the same class. We have 38 students currently signed up for the capstone course, and a few who did capstones in the fall, which means we should have around 40 graduates in the spring to add to the 60 who have already completed the minor.
 - ii. In the fall Steve Boss and Tahar Messadi attended the AASHE conference in Portland, OR, where they held a workshop on research methods in sustainability. They were invited to hold this workshop for a third time this fall as well as to solicit papers for a sustainability symposium at the 2015 conference.
 - iii. Steve Boss will be hosting a workshop with Alan Mantooth and Jon Johnson on Energy, Economy, Environment (E3) at the NCSE conference in two weeks. This workshop will be a panel discussion with distinguished administrators from several federal agencies including DOE, NSF, and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP).
 - iv. Dr. Boss gave an update on the minor enrollment, students who have gone on to procure jobs due to their sustainability minor, and student demographics in the minor.
- 6. Good-of-the-Order
 - a. Mike Johnson requested input for how to energize and engage the working groups. It is a good way for individuals outside of the Council to participate, but maintaining engagement throughout the year is a challenge.
 - b. The City of Fayetteville has initiated a home energy efficiency financing program called PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy).
 - c. The City of Fayetteville transportation plan will be available for public comment in March.
 - d. There have been two bills pre-filed in the AR legislature, one of which is a Dark Sky bill, and the other is a net metering bill, which would expand and improve our net metering allowance.
 - e. The Applied Sustainability Center has a DOE grant to conduct energy efficiency education, which has been passed off to the OFS to administer that project. Chris Craig, a new Environmental Dynamics PhD student, will be working on that project.
- 7. UASC Scheduled Meetings
 - a. April 14, ARKU 503
 - b. July 14, OZAR 104
 - c. October 13, OZAR 104
- 8. Adjourn
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM