Environmental Sustainability Committee  
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

AB7 402 ; 2:00 pm

Attendance:
Present: Sarah Davis, Rhonda Holtzclaw, Katie Leone, Vikki McConnell, Sim Komisar, Anne Hartley, T.C. Yih, Tom Mayo, Julie Yazici, Andrew Wilkinson

Absent: Guy Cicinelli, Uzair Iqbal, Ron Dalton, Gerry Segal

Guests:
Patty Krupp (Colloquium), Tom Stromolo & Kevin Burlew (Energy General, LLC), Jim Hehl (Physical Plant)

Review of Minutes:
Sarah reviewed the 11/25/14 meeting minutes. Sim motioned to approve, Anne seconded his motion, and all approved.

Mission & Vision and Strategic Planning Update- Rhonda & Sarah
• The ESC's suggested changes were not accepted. 80% of people that completed the survey agreed that they liked Mission & Vision as it is currently written. Therefore, making drastic changes would not be fair to campus constituents unless we completed a follow-up survey or demonstrated broad campus consensus endorsing the proposed edits.
• All of our Internal Scan updates were incorporated into the final draft. Our next step is to provide input for the Strategic Plan.
• The committee discussed the External Scan:
  ○ Sim thought that the report could have included more comparisons between FGCU and our peer institutions, especially those in southwest Florida. He also felt that our strength as a leader in environmental education was not highlighted enough. Our geographic location puts us at extreme risk for feeling the negative effects of climate change (especially sea level rise), and this was not identified in the scan as an external threat. Additionally, the job outlook in the External Scan did not discuss how FGCU prepares students for careers in industries that work towards preventing, reducing, and mitigating the negative effects that southwest Florida will experience with rising sea levels.
  • Anne noted that opportunities and threats like this might have been excluded from the External Scan because a five-year planning period is too narrow of a window to fully consider long-term sustainability.
  • The co-chairs reminded the committee that there was a tight timeline to complete the External Scan, so much of it drew upon the External Scan from five years ago.
  • Tom pointed out that the average buildings lifespan are 40+ years.
  • The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to consider long-term planning goals along with five-year goals.

Energy Audit Update- Tom & Kevin of Energy General LLC
• This process started a few years ago with Jim, Sim, and others as a subcommittee of the ESC. These audits were completed by Energy General, LLC at a discounted rate. These audits and subsequent retrofits can cut energy use across the campus by 30% with a 5-6 year payback period because the level of control we have with younger buildings is a tremendous opportunity for energy reduction.
- The audit includes a broad comprehensive analysis showing the status of energy efficiency at FGCU and how renewables factor into our energy mix. It also shows building-by-building detail.
- They finished an AHSRAE Level 1 analysis of Whitaker Hall and page 17 of the report outlines the recommended energy efficiency measures.
- We negotiated to have Johnson sell us our software and data so we can manage energy efficiency internally through a centralized energy database with an automatic alarm system. The software will allow for remote energy auditing via smart meters so reports can be seen every 15 minutes. (Currently, we can only see them once a month based on our FPL bill).
- They completed a benchmarking report of the following buildings: Lutgert, Holmes, Griffin, Howard, AB-7, Reed, and Whitaker. As a result of benchmark report, we learned that the solar numbers were unsettling enough to merit a comprehensive energy audit.
- Since Holmes is in a different energy usage class, this is the next area that needs to be investigated. This will require a commitment by more people at the university to finish the audit. Students could become involved and a class could help continue the energy audit. The final report can help FGCU tweak the system around occupancy to maximize efficiencies. Whitaker and Holmes currently have disproportionate summer energy use based on weighted campus user occupancy and FGCU should consider ways of alleviating this.
- The solar meters should measure net and total building usage, but they are not working accurately and we haven’t received a quarterly energy report from Regenesis Solar in over five years. Since we did not know how much electricity the solar powered buildings actually used, we had to estimate this based on each building’s load and compare that to day of use data from FPL bills.
- We are in year 6 of our 20 year Regenesis contract. Regenesis should not be selling any RECs because it is clear that every electron from Solar Field bounces immediately into the buildings.
- Last year they talked about starting a Green Revolving Fund (GRF) to finance sustainability projects. GRFs work differently at each institution, but the general idea is to establish seed money, invest in an energy efficiency upgrade, repay the "loan" from the amount saved on energy, and reinvest the surplus into new projects. Initial funding can come from a variety of sources such as operating budgets, endowment principal, donations, grants, utility rebates, etc.. GRFs are managed by the Green Revolving Investment System (GRITS) Software which ties sustainability projects and planning to a financial package that ensures continual support for sustainability projects. To learn more, read the Billion Dollar Green Challenge’s implementation guide at [http://greenbillion.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/GRF_Implementation_Guide.pdf](http://greenbillion.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/GRF_Implementation_Guide.pdf)

**Meetings next semester will be on Tuesdays at 1:30 on opposite weeks of the PBC.**