Environmental Sustainability Committee

February 17, 2015
AB7 402
1:30 pm

Attendance:
Present: Sarah Davis, Rhonda Holtzclaw, Katie Leone, Sim Komisar, Tom Mayo, Julie Yazici, Win Everham (representing Greg Tolley), Guy Cicinelli, Ann Hartley, Gerry Segal
Absent: Uzair Iqbal, TC Yih, Vikki McConnell, Ron Dalton
Guests: Patty Krupp (Colloquium), Ian Campbell (Chemistry), Joe McDonald (Administrative Services & Finance), Damian Baker, Megan Foster, Joshua Radford, & Nathan Reece (students giving a presentation on Controlled Burns at FGCU)

Review of Minutes:
Sarah reviewed the 2/3/15 meeting minutes. Sim motioned to approve, Tom seconded his motion, and all approved.

Food Service ITN- Katie Leone & Joe McDonald
- The dining Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) will be issued in June and vendors will submit contracts for review in August.
- The sustainability section in the ITN asks vendors to outline how they plan to minimize wastes, maximize local and third-party verified products, engage our campus through outreach and academic partnerships, and meet other operational efficiencies. We are also asking that vendors mention how they will track their sustainability efforts to benchmark for continual improvement and reduce our reporting burden.
- Committee members gave input regarding sustainability efforts that they would like to see our next vendor accomplish. At this point in time, we are sending out broad language to see how the vendors will respond. Upon receiving the proposals, we will narrow it down to a few finalists. At that time, we can incorporate further details and specifics.
- Four vendors have already done on-site visits for market research.

Controlled Burns- Damien Baker, Megan Foster, Joshua Radford, Nathan Reece
- The slides from this presentation accompany these meeting minutes.
- For this group’s senior legacy project, they would like to assist FGCU in reintroducing controlled burns to our campus. They would also like to help educate campus community members and neighbors about the benefits of controlled burns. Here are the steps they have taken to research the topic to date:
  - Researched the history of fires at FGCU
    - 1997 was the last time a controlled burn occurred on campus.
    - Since then, we have been using mechanical removal and turning the waste product into mulch. This is a good practice, but does not replace the benefits that fires bring to our campus’s ecosystems.
    - Wildfires in 2000 and 2011 have come close to FGCU’s campus. Without having a regular controlled burn schedule, these fires are a greater risk to our buildings and property since we have increased fuel loads.
  - Looked at best practices and management strategies at other schools such as UCF and UNF that practice controlled burns
  - Looked at the Southwest Florida Water Management District’s (SFWMD) policies to ensure compliance
  - Met with the local fire fighters
  - Explored financial feasibility
    - Identified available grants
• Burning could qualify FGCU for mitigation points with the SFWMD since it demonstrates how we are taking steps to maintain preserved lands.
  • Tom mentioned that Mitigation Banks cost $40,000-70,000 apiece if we need to purchase them for development so burning could become a university asset.
    ○ Identified pros and cons to practicing controlled burns
    ○ Identified best practices and ideal timelines for burning as well as processes for engaging stakeholders
• Rhonda recommended that the group reach out to FGCU’s Risk Management and Liability departments to learn if there are any rules and regulations for controlled burns in the Department of Financial Services for the State of Florida’s codes. Florida’s Department of Financial Services is the governing body responsible for assessing risks that can impact state owned property; it is possible that they have existing guidelines applicable to doing controlled burns on state land.
• The next steps will be for the group to submit a formal proposal to the ESC and Safety & Facilities Committees. If both of those groups agree that the proposal should be put into practice, it can move forward to the PBC.

Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan Update- Rhonda Holtzclaw
• This is a historic document that we have been charged to update. The first one was written in 2010-11 and the second in 2011-12.
• The group looked at the Environmental Sustainability Goals from the 2011-12 Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan. Rhonda received minimal responses from the VPs and it is unclear which goals have been accomplished and which goals need to be reinvigorated. The group worked on identifying which goals have been accomplished based on their personal knowledge and had a robust discussion on how to move forward.

Next Meeting
March 3, 2015, 1:30-3:00 AB7-402