Environmental Sustainability Committee Notes
April 21, 2014
AB7 402
1:00 pm

In attendance: Rhonda Holtclaw, co-chair; Sarah Davis, co-chair; Kelly Walsh; Uzair Iqbal (for SG Director of Sustainability); Sasha Wohlpart; Katie Leone; Vikki McConnell; Patty Krupp; Ron Dalton; Sim Komisar; Andrew Wilkinson; Alex Erlenbach; Tom Mayo; Ann Hartley

Not present: 

Minutes –4/7/14 Approved- Rhonda motioned, Vikki seconded, all approved

Buckingham Update:
Katie updated the group on the draft of the Buckingham report and the group gave feedback for revisions. Additional feedback will be given by the subcommittee, Vikki and Andrew, and Katie, Rhonda, and Sarah will incorporate any further feedback into a final draft. The report will be shared with the SPIEC committee, the PBC, and Safety & Facilities.

Rhonda asked Tom about how the university will comply with the rural zoning laws (specifically in terms of housing). Tom informed us that we don’t need to comply with the Lee County Plan, but should be consistent with our university mission statement, be good neighbors, and work with the county to develop the space in a way that is appropriate. The idea of using the space as a prototype for useful housing that could be replicated or moved (i.e. Habitat for Humanity) was brought up and well received by the committee.

Library Lawn Update, Tom Mayo:
Tom shared the most current version of the concept and plans for the library lawn. The space will be a central and revered location that becomes a monumental feature of the campus master plan. It will be a place where the environment is integrated with academic and student life and will resonate with the university’s mission of sustainability. The space will be a type of “intellectual garden” that encourages thought and programmatic needs with play a supportive role in defining the space.

Since the lawn will be integrated with the academic spine, Tom and his team have already been considering how it will successfully intermingle. ESC members liked the idea of developing more shaded areas and pedestrian corridors to decrease congestion. Most people supported the idea of having the pedestrian alleyways act as “rooms” that connect the natural space to the urban spine and having them landscaped with native plants and permaculture. No one liked the idea of using glass or any type of built roof to create shade in the main corridor. Doing so would make the space feel like a mall, be difficult and costly to maintain, and could increase the temperature. The group preferred the idea of using trees that grew together to form an arch and/or trellises with vining species to create shade. Ron suggested putting distance makers along the oval pathway so that people exercising can know how far they have traveled.
ECOFGCU Update, Alex Erlenbach-
Alex wanted to talk to the committee about construction standards, but the group was short on time. Sarah referred him to the best management practices that ESC developed and we will continue the discussion at a later date.

Announcements

All agreed that Alex and Sasha should remain the faculty representatives next year.

Meetings for next year will be on Monday or Tuesday at 2:00.