

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Fall 2017 Meeting I

Date: Tuesday, October 25th

Location: Auxiliary Services, Conference Room

Time: 12:00PM to 1:30PM

Attendees: Maria Honey, Melissa Halstead, Ricardo Useche, Stephanie Coates, Andrea Trevino (representing Eve Esch), Emily Merrell, Shannon Thomas, Laura Galloway, Jeanne LaMontagne, Jennifer Rea, Mackenzie Wysong, Bruce Race, Eric Holamon.

I. Introductions

Members went around the table and introduced themselves and their roles at UH.

II. Office of Sustainability - Overview and Updates

Melissa Halstead discussed the following items.

A. Upcoming Projects and Initiatives:

I. UH Dining Sustainability: Launching Farmers Market. Reach goal of Zero Waste Dining Commons by 2020, start of Hydroponic gardens.

II. Houston Bcycle: Working on bringing bike share program to campus, starting with 7 stations.

III. Sustainability Consultant: Strategic plan for sustainability funding model, office structure, and reaching STARS Platinum.

IV. Currently starting work on 2018 STARS reporting.

V. Eco-Rep Residential Program: Aligning sustainability initiatives and programs in residential halls.

VI. Tree Campus Inventory & Recertification: Conducting survey and applying for third consecutive year.

B. Department Updates:

I. New leader: Maria Honey, Director of Sustainability, Communications and Outreach.

II. New Student Team Members have been hired. New Office and Team Lead, two new Outreach Assistants.

III. Currently conducting final interviews for the positions of Sustainability Manager and seeking Sustainability Program Coordinator.

C. Department Program Updates:

I. Discontinuation of Farm to Work: Demand was not as expected, our partners with the farmers, Plant it Forward will continue with participating at the Farmers Market.

II. Eco-Representative Residential Program: Looking to assist Residence Hall leaders in either expanding their current programs, or creating brand new ones.

III. AASHE poster presentation of COAST.

IV. Keep Houston Beautiful - Mayor's Proud Partner Luncheon on November 13th.

V. Bike MAPP under review: will be providing email copy of bike policy review. Committee is looking to review map, submit edits and changes. Submit suggestions to Sustainability Advisory Committee to Melissa by October 20th, submissions are due by October 23.

III. Office Priorities for FY 17/18

- A. Sustainability Consultant: Riverstone Sustainability. Workshop has been tentatively scheduled for week of October 25th. Inviting all committee members to attend, Melissa will send out a calendar invite and agenda.
- B. AASHE STARS reporting: Seeking to achieve Platinum this reporting period. Will soon start collecting data and it is appreciated from Committee members to provide updated contact information for data gathering.
- C. Programming for Spring: Recyclemania, Sustainability Fest, Earth Week and Community Garden. Members could host tables, attend, promote, etc. Get in contact with us if interested. Committee members are encouraged to interact with UH community body and represent the sustainability committee.
- D. SGA has passed a Climate bill with Second Nature, our office is currently conducting research and how the bill would impact our office and the school as a whole. Goal of sharing information with Committee members and get feedback and guidance from everyone.
- E. Bike Share Implementation: Contract has been sent for signatures, working on student survey with SETS to be launched on Nov 6th to find where the stations should be located and receive student feedback. Dr. Race asked if we have been coordinated with College of Technology as they have been working on software tools. Melissa said yes. No official timeline regarding implementation has been determined.
- F. UH Dining: farmers market launched, reaching for zero waste by 2020, hydroponics garden.

IV. Committee Overview

Maria Honey discussed the following items.

- A. Structure of 6 voting members, plus non-voting members. Meeting twice a semester, twice in Fall/Spring. Diligent and strategic on what's covered.
 - I. Expectations: Inform inability to make it or if you must leave early. Give advice and recommendations. Connect with other individuals to expand the committee coverage.
 - II. Attendance: Must be taken for transparency of voting items. Proposed email voting, no objection of it. Sending minutes for review.

III. Member opportunities: Opportunities to have your help and assistance with promotion/support of programs and events. Committee is open to events and ideas that we can all collaborate on.

B. Bylaws

I. Proposing title: Sustainability Advisory Committee, added as representation of connection with leadership and task force. Name was accepted.

II. Modified number of voting members from 13 to 6. Possible to expand. Seeking staff council member, student representative. Suggestion by Dr. Race to propose an uneven number of voting members. Student at large position for tiebreakers.

III. Added expectations from members in bylaws.

IV. Added Chair and Vice Chair: Consider nominating self or others for positions. Email will be sent to rest of the committee. The person nominated must accept the nomination. This is will voted on during next committee meeting.

V. Suggestion to create overlapping terms to better educate and prepare the new member. All members were in agreeance with suggestions.

VI. Removed ex-officio appointing authority. Removed grievances.

Feedback requested by Nov. 13th. Voting will be done at next meeting.

C. Learning outcomes

Melissa Halstead discussed the following items.

Learning outcomes were introduced to align with A&F committee standards and to enhance the committee member knowledge base and experience.

I. Better understand MAPP, provide feedback and suggestions on better distribution.

II. Committee members will understand the use of the AASHE, STARS tracking system to monitor our sustainability progress on campus & additionally be familiar with gaps in scoring to better reach point goals.

III. Identify at least three sustainability initiatives on campus.

V. **Member Announcements**

A. **Eric - COAST**

I. COAST has a reported 1900 students using the program. There are 640 carpools, with a mean size of 3.3. Around 250 fac/staff participating.

II .An estimated offset of 1700 parking spaces, almost at four year goal after 1st year.

III .Brainstorming ideas for people that come to campus on limited days or only during the evening.

IV. Also thinking of bikeshare subsidies for people on campus or its surroundings.

B. **Dr. Bruce Race**

I. Bicycle effort has made connections with classes and students.

II. Looking to ramp up North Campus parking as a net-zero proposal. Looking to tackle greenhouse gas emissions, options for purchased energy, commuting etc. Hoping to bring information for further discussion.

C. Housing

I. No new updates, looking forward to implementing Eco-Representative program.

D. Facilities Communication – Jennifer Rea

I. Looking for funding to replace UH₂O station signs. Looking to bring more attention towards them.

E. Facilities

I. Looking to reduce standby power consumption at night.

F. UH Energy- Shannon Thomas

I. Hosting booth at Energy Day at Sam Houston park. Have hands on activities revolving around getting younger student in STEM. Saturday 14th, looking for more attendees.

II. Developing tours and activities around the city to better involve students.

III. Will present screening of a sustainability documentary called Happening.

G. Student Centers

I. Increased recycling and created art sustainability wall, office is ramping up recycling of materials.

II. Connecting with office coordinators and expanding the culture of sustainability. Tackling K-Cups recycling. G2 Revolution is being contacted to better recycle K-cups and collections boxes are sent back about every 2-3wks. **Only keurig cups are accepted at collection boxes.**

III. Trying to get more departments involved in this initiative.

IV. Also doing lunch & learns. Now open to everyone, 400 people list so far. Next month Chartwells will be at event talking about their initiatives.

H. Office of Sustainability

I. Conducting research on PrintReleaf, a reforestation project based on paper consumption.

II. Currently reviewing STARS reporting. Verifying previous data and contact information.

V. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 14th.

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Voting on: Bylaws, Chair & Vice Chair positions.