

## Sustainability Committee – Spring 2017 Meeting I

Date: Tuesday, April 25

Location: Fresh Food Company Conference Room, Moody Towers

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Attendees: Ali Tahir, Emily Merrell, Esmeralda Valdez, Eve Esch, Jeanne LaMontagne, Jeff Feng, Jennifer Rea, Joujou Zebdaoui, Kayshewa Cahmupathi, Melissa Halstead, Nikhil Schneider, Stephanie Coates

I. Introductions

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

II. Sustainability Updates & Upcoming Events

a. Bayou Greenway Day (April 29<sup>th</sup>)

i. **Office of Sustainability will be tabling**

b. Vegan Feast-Cougar Place Residents (May 2<sup>nd</sup>)

i. **Office of sustainability will provide information about the benefits of being vegan and environmental impacts. UH Dining will discuss health benefits and provide cooking demo to residents.**

c. Farm to Work (Fridays 3-4 pm)

i. **Presented FTW training to everyone**

ii. **May be changing day/time to accommodate some participants' availabilities**

iii. **Passed around volunteer sign-up sheet**

d. New Student Orientations

i. **Office of Sustainability will be participating at each NSO.**

e. Ongoing garden volunteer opportunities

i. **Please encourage others to participate, can contact our office directly to schedule.**

III. Office of Sustainability Updates

**Melissa Halstead informed the members about a consultant coming to analyze the Office of Sustainability's strategic plan for the office structure and funding models. Aim for completion over the summer. Melissa will provide updates with progress.**

IV. Subcommittee Update

a. **Melissa provided updated from subcommittee meeting and discussion to tackle**

**MAPPS that are currently under review versus adding an addendum. Melissa provided the different MAPP policies Peggy Levy provided with department contacts.**

b. **The possibility of a bike resale to provide funding was discussed for a summer project that would collaborate with facilities and UHPD in order to reclaim removed bikes, refurbish and resale to students for the fall. This would decrease waste and provide**

additional funding to the Office of Sustainability and affordable bikes to student, staff and faculty.

- c. **Members discussed the idea to create/update MAPPs to promote sustainable activities. Eve Esch discussed the idea to prioritize each policy and break out into separate subcommittee meetings. Eve also discussed the option to create blanket sustainability language within all MAPPs policies.**
  - d. **Property Management determines the disposal of residential items and if they are donated. However, Joujou Zebdaoui discussed the importance of this initiative due to limited resources within the property management department and current MAPPs furniture is being placed in landfills versus donated. Several committee members expressed the need for a property management representative to be a member of the sustainability committee.**
  - e. **The committee discussed and agreed that each policy will need a subcommittee. The subcommittee's will draft the wording and work with other departmental stakeholders.**
  - f. **Jennifer Rea confirmed the first review period ends in August.**
  - g. **Melissa Halstead will coordinate and follow-up subcommittee meetings to discuss further.**
- V. **Committee Updates and Projects**
- a. **Melissa: Collected the other 2 votes regarding the bylaws, therefore the committee bylaws have been officially approved.**
  - b. **Melissa reports Mackenzie Wysong's update (since she was unable to attend) that despite numerous efforts, Student Housing and Residential Life will not be sponsoring the donation hall program this year. However several other halls will independently continue this effort. The Office of Sustainability will provide additional support. Stephanie Coates volunteered to follow up with Mackenzie since they collaborated with this effort last year.**
  - c. **Eve Esch: Reported a minor increase in sustainable activities and environmental health efforts from the Student Center. Eve is currently collecting data from the Student Center Sustainability Committee and will report the results once completed. Eve proposed the idea of a sustainability related award for A&F division. Additionally, Eve discussed ongoing Student Center activities throughout finals week.**
  - d. **Jennifer Rea: Solar array is functional again thanks to Randy Wagner from the Central Power Plant. He also has other ideas that he wants to get started on related to sustainability.**
  - e. **Jeanne LaMontagne: Discussed building projects and research, such as the variance of roof temperatures based on materials.**

VI. **Next Meeting**

- a. Subcommittee meetings in the Summer
  - b. Next Sustainability Committee meeting in the Fall
- VII. Action items
- a. Discussed inviting a representative from Property Management to join the committee.
  - b. Melissa Halstead will coordinate and follow-up subcommittee meetings over the summer.
  - c. Towards the end of summer will determine fall and spring committee meeting schedule.