

PRESIDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday November 14, 2016

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Physical Plant Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Meeting was called to order at 1:05pm

In attendance:

Dan Park, Director of the Physical Plant

Bob Biles, Landscape Supervisor

Rachna Sinnott, Director of Grants and Foundation Relations

Amy Molitor, Senior Adj. Assist Prof of Environmental Studies & Sport Studies

Victoria Wolff, Internship Coordinator- Student Engagement

Brandon Bishop, Campus Sustainability Coordinator

Lydia Petroske, ASWC Representative

Absent:

Dani Hupper, ASWC Sustainability Director

Lydia Petroske, ASWC Sustainability

Caroline Ashford Arya, Environmental Interest House and Residence Life

2. COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT. (5 minutes)

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

- a. No public comment

4. MINUTES.

- a. No minutes at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. No old business at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Report on Current Campus Sustainability (Waste Diversion, GHG Prelim Report, Utilities) *5 min*  
Brandon Bishop, Campus Sustainability Coordinator reported on the status of campus sustainability:  
FY16 Preliminary Greenhouse Gas Inventory:  
Questions were raised relating to the observable increases within our emissions factors. Significant increases were seen in our purchased electricity and fertilizer use. These are likely due to errors within the GHG inventory conducted in FY13. While these adjustments can be accounted for preliminary data suggest an increase in our observed emissions from FY13 to FY16. Currently trust properties are not captured within this dataset. A second set of data will be formulated to include trust property utility use.

FY16 Utility Report: The overall utility report was presented. We have seen a decrease in our electricity use from FY15 to FY16. General cost per unit of electricity has increased from FY15 to FY16. The peak observed in FY15 was likely due to increased summer cooling. We have seen some fluctuation within our Natural Gas use as a result of heating degree days. Our use is currently down in relation to FY14; but up from FY15. The observable utility cost of natural gas has fallen since FY14. This decrease in cost is associated with the status of the current natural gas market. We have seen decreases within our municipal water use from FY14-FY16. This is attributable to increased well usage for our grounds irrigation. The exact amount utilized for landscape is unknown at this time. Overall we have seen year over year increases in the cost of municipal water. These increases follow national water cost trends. The total cost of campus utilities for FY16 was approx. \$1,479,008.

Zero Waste Report: An overview of campus composting and recycling was given. Currently the campus has a diversion rate of 44%. About 21% of our diverted material is yard waste which goes to municipal composting. Roughly 26% of our diversion is made up of Recycling. In total a majority of this material is cardboard and paper. An overview was given of the impact of the commodities market on the recycling budget. Recommendations were made for informational overviews at Division and Office meetings to encourage increased waste Diversion. ASWC is currently developing a Zero Waste Plan in collaboration with the Campus Sustainability Coordinator.

- b. Loss of College's sustainability recognition by Sierra Club, Princeton Review, and other ratings. *5 min*

A brief overview was given of the loss of our sustainability rankings. We are currently taking action to regain these rankings.

- c. Discussion of Climate Action Plan moving forward *15 min*

- a. Tabled.

- d. Report on Living at Whitman Initiative. *5 min*

- a. Overview was given of the green features of the Living at Whitman Project.

- e. Status of Climate Task Force-Thermostat Policy- \*Action Item *10 min*

- a. The committee discussed the policy as recommended by the Climate Taskforce. The committee elected to table a recommendation on the policy. Overall there was discussion relating to the opt out provision of the policy. The committee found the opt out provision problematic. There was some consensus that if we reversed the opt out provision in favor of an administrative policy that there may be significant push back from staff and faculty. Some members of the committee believe that the policy can be implemented through a staff/faculty educational program. In general there was some consensus that the policy would have to be addressed as a directive to move forward. The committee elected to review the policy as drafted by the Climate Taskforce.

- f. ASWC Sustainability Report *5 min*

- a. An overview was given of current ASWC measures. The committee was interested in the Green Guide being developed by ASWC. The committee would like a Green Guide for all campus members possibly in conjunction with a purchasing guide.
- g. Report on status of building sub-metering. *2 min*
  - a. An overview was given of potential sub metering projects for FY17. Discussion was had whether it would be advantageous to meter electricity in buildings prior to other more expensive metering. The committee appeared favorable of pursuing metering in accordance with current operating procedures.
- h. Discussion of Goal Setting for coming year. *15 min*
  - a. General questions were raised related to the objectives of the committee. Specific goals will be discussed at the next meeting.
- i. Sustainability Revolving Loan Fund *2 min*
  - a. A proposal was made to increase the payback on the Sustainability Revolving Loan Fund from 5 years to 10 years. The committee discussed some of the pros and cons relating to changing the payback. Additional discussion was had relating to the usability of the fund. The committee discussed the potential of a new structure for selection of projects including a student committee. The committee saw major issues with transitioning the fund to a student committee structure. There was some discussion of possible fund duplication between ASWC funds and the SRLF. There was additional discussion related to the funds existence. No action was taken.

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Positions still open on committee.

#### 8. REQUESTS FOR NEXT AGENDA.

No items were requested for the next agenda.

#### 9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm**