Sustainability Committee Meeting

October 16, 2014

Members present:

Linda Kieffer  
Don Richter  
LeeAnn Case  
Laurie Morley  
Shawn King  
Guest: Mary Voves: VP of Business and Finance

Game Day Challenge Update

- 87% waste diversion during pilot game  
- 10/18/14 will be actual challenge  
- video and marketing in the works

Guest: Mary Voves

Mary mentioned that she and LeeAnn attended Greater Spokane Incorporated State of the Green Economy workshop. It was enlightening to hear what others are doing to support sustainability trends and initiatives. Key takeaways: Sustainability has become a horizontal movement, no longer vertical silos, green is about a global economy, sustainability encompasses everything: food, energy, behavior, recycling, it is still evolving but no longer “green washing”

Mary discussed the sustainability assessment and strategic planning engagement and process  
Goal: campus sustainability move to forefront; bring all sustainability actions together in consolidated and coordinated effort and plan  
-Roll out strategic plan for sustainability on February 24, 2015 at the sustainability symposium  
-Create strategic plan committee; anyone on the committee who wants to be a part of the planning committee let LeeAnn know.

-Shawn King and Linda Kieffer volunteered.  
-Michelle Hege of Desautel Hege will lead the planning process  
- Kim Peirman Gilman from McInstry has agreed to be on the planning committee

The results of the strategic planning process will result in new policies and guidelines for the campus ie create sustainable building standards, develop an energy offset policy
The plan will provide leadership, framework and direction for the campus, everything from curriculum to logistics. The plan will also help prioritize which rankings and organizations the university wants to be a part of in the future.

The planning process is being driven by Dr. Cullinan as she is very interested in a nationally recognized sustainable campus.

Next steps in the process:

Mary and Michelle will meet with Dr. Fuller to discuss the planning process for incorporating curriculum structure and goals into the planning process. We want to expose all of our students to sustainability through the curriculum. Many courses already include sustainability; it is a matter of capturing the outcomes from the courses.

Michelle Hege will design focus groups and lead discussions

Mary indicated that some areas will be easier to work through than others, for example energy management is done well on campus. It is measurable and goal based, however other areas that are less measureable will be more challenging. This committee involvement will be critical to the planning committee.

Other outcomes of the strategic planning process: assess the structure of the committee, look at various models i.e the University Budget Committee is highly functioning and one that works well. A possible parking tax support the mandated electric vehicle charging station requirements.

Mary mentioned that her goal is to create an office of sustainability with a director and staff by reallocating funding to support campus sustainability.

Mary also mentioned that Governor Inslee is very committee to sustainability in Washington. Recommended reading---Apollo’s Fire, by Jay Inslee. Also the Governor and First Lady have dedicated space at the Governor’s residence for gardening both for educational purposes and practical use.

Below is a link to the July article from the Tacoma News Tribune.
http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/07/02/3271366_members-of-the-garden-party.html?rh=1

Other items discussed/Good of the order:

Don- Electric Vehicles may not be as good for the environment and they want you to believe. Example: Life cycle of batteries and disposal can be an issue.

Shawn had sent the following email update on recycling center- “I spoke with Mike Davis and substantial completion for the EWU Recycling Center is end of November with completion end of December.” Grand opening of EWU Recycling Center is to be discussed next meeting.

Laurie - Needs help with planning and outreach assistance, including getting the students motivated for the movie nights/brown bags, Mary suggested paid internships would be something she would support, Linda mentioned that students can also get credit. Movie Nights have been scheduled for the week of 11/9 - 11/16 outreach—details to follow, movies will be in PEB103
Brown Bag discussion- Plan a brown bag with a discussion of the sustainability strategic planning process to jump start the conversation. Mary will do first brown bag to talk about project.

Remind Michelle Hege that the focus groups need to be held on a variety of days and times throughout the process, even at night and at Riverpoint.

Graham Kerr- Visit follow up. His primary topic was gardening, how to eat what you grow or what you buy that is no processed. He was non-judgmental in his discussions, wanting to share what he had learned. It works for him but wouldn’t work for everyone. He was very impressed with the campus and our dining services program. He was also entertaining. $200 in donations was collected for the garden at the tea.

Next Meeting

October 30, 2014 at Noon in TAW 215A

Mary will join us with an update on the Strategic Planning Process

Todd Sturgis from University Advancement will join us with an update on the Sustainability Project Fundraising campaign.

Event reminders:

- National Food Day – October 23, 2014
- First Sweater Day (tentative) – November 7th – Spirit Sweater