Sustainability Charter Committee

Friday, October 23, 2015

2:00 PM

University Services Building Room **202**

AGENDA

1. Call to order –Brian Thompson and Christine Rutledge-Russell, Co-chairs
2. LEED discussion – Don Guckert, Sadie Greiner
3. Updates on Iowa Energy Plan, AASHE conference, new office – Liz Christiansen
4. Bike share program update – Liz Christiansen
5. Next meeting and adjournment

Sustainability Charter Committee

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- Meeting Minutes –

**MEMBERS/LIAISONS PRESENT:** Christine Rutledge-Russell, Brian Thompson, Liz Christiansen, Sophia Finster, Ben Ross, Jake Kundert, Heather Sander, Barbara Eckstein

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Eric Holthaus, Jeff Landgren, Grant Gregory, Sadie Greiner

**LEED DISCUSSION:** Don Guckert and Sadie Greiner, Interim Director of FM Planning, Design & Construction, led a discussion regarding the value of LEED building certification. [All of the new major buildings and renovations after 2009 have been LEED certified](http://www.facilities.uiowa.edu/sustainable-initiatives/LEED.html). The fact that almost all the new buildings have achieved at least LEED Gold validates that the UI has been designing sustainably. Overall, the UI has spent around a considerable amount to receive the certification. The question is should the UI continue to seek LEED certification – what value does it bring? Certification costs could be used for other sustainability efforts. Don and Sadie are surveying peer institutions regarding their continued participation in the program and wanted to the Charter Committee members to be aware that the discussion was taking place. In addition, they are researching other green building certification options. Don will bring the issue to the committee again.

**UPDATES ON IOWA ENERGY PLAN, AASHE CONFERENCE, NEW OFFICE:** Liz reported that applications were being accepted for anyone who wished to serve on one of four [Iowa Energy Plan](http://www.iowaenergyplan.org/index.html) working groups that will focus on the pillars of the study:

* Economic development and energy careers
* Iowa’s energy resources
* Transportation and infrastructure
* Energy efficiency and conservation

The AASHE Conference will be held next week in Minneapolis MN. Liz, Eric Holthaus, George McCrory and Sara Maples will be attending, along with four students from the Office of Sustainability. Liz will be attending a meeting of the Big Ten and Friends Sustainability Directors prior to the conference. The group is developing a conference-wide report on the value of sustainability in education.

The Office of Sustainability has a new home at 1650 UCC. The space is three times as large as the previous office, so there is plenty of room for student activities and meetings.

**BIKE SHARE PROGRAM UPDATE:** Liz presented items from a memo she prepared as a result of a bike share meeting she attended in Evanston IL. The meeting was sponsored by the National Sustainability Directors Network, which regularly funds peer exchange meetings in order to promote collaborative efforts in sustainability. The peer meetings are meant for community sustainability coordinators but since Iowa City Sustainability Coordinator Brenda Nations could not attend due to a conflicting peer exchange meeting, Liz asked to attend, representing the University of Iowa.

The memo highlighted issues regarding program ownership, ongoing operations and maintenance, program equity and affordability, program development, and promotion, education and ongoing support.

Grant Gregory and Willy Tan, interns with the Office of Sustainability, conducted an analysis of some proposed bike stations sites using population density, employment density and minority population density. The sites were proposed only, and will likely change based on input from the public and the successful vendor.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**: Brian reminded the group that the retreat will be held Friday, November 6 in the Executive Board Room at the UCC.

The next Sustainability Charter Committee meeting will be held Friday, November 20 in Room 202 USB.