

**Task Force 6**  
**January 12, 2015**  
**8:00AM CBB 327**

The task force reviewed briefly what was discussed at the December 15, 2014 meeting, as well as the agenda for today. The main points the force wanted to go over was the student perspective of sustainability from Parker, the Sustainability Action Committee from Eric, and summarize what the other task forces are doing.

Parker talked to peers and friends and asked them what sustainability means to them. A few people wanted a definition for clarification of the word. The students asked what they would get out of sustainability; yes, it would benefit the university, but how would it benefit the students? They want a better tie with the university.

The students also mentioned that the small things like automatic double-sided printing make it easier to make it a habit without realizing it. The students want small things made easy. If sustainability is made a way of life, it makes sustainability easier to achieve.

Gowri gave a brief summary of the other six task forces: Community partnership, academics, campus life/residential living, transportation, open space/recreation and athletics, and sustainability.

Eric discussed some history and facts from the Sustainability Action Committee from the past few years.

- There has been a history of energy conservation at UNI since the early 1900's.
  - 1950: First conservation program in US
  - 1980: Capstone
  - 1982: Co-generation at plant
  - 1980's: Extended break for staff resulted in massive savings over Christmas break.
  - 1990's: Reduced chemicals used on grounds and was cut in half if not more.
- Ongoing – UNI excels through our Outreach Centers
  - Programs educate community, kids
  - UNI energy management (ex. Reduced operations over break)
  - IT Server virtualization
    - Tier Study had a lot of sustainability projects
  - Packaging materials with things we purchase
  - "Green" aspects with bidding
  - Physical plant – campus waste management
    - Single stream recycling
  - Grounds and native plants
    - Reduced pesticides
    - Reduced mowing

President Allen was with committee that brought up several issues and they were actually fixed.

- Waste groups were included.
- Energy groups
- Transportation groups

#### STAR's Program

- Over 250 schools and sustainability related data
  - 130 Questions
- UNI's STARS report is about 3 years old
  - UNI may re-enrol, but there's so many changes to the requirements each year that it may not be worth it.
  - Supposed to be just information, but the STARS program has turned into campuses competing with one another.
- ISU, University of Iowa mad at UNI for joining and getting gold right away.
  - Gold is not an easy rating to achieve (highest is platinum).
- The committee can look at 2013 information for reference.

#### Is UNI being proactive or reactive?

- With occupants
- With buildings
- With wellness and health
  - Sustainability includes all of it
    - Which buildings do we feel healthiest in?
  - Buildings with a high skin/surface ratio
    - Exercise machines
  - Think about environmental health and safety when renovating buildings.
  - Green cleaning products
    - Almost all of UNI's cleaning products are "green".
      - Floor wax is not.
- We cannot do Iowa waste audits because the campus is so big.
  - Possibly use interns for audits.

#### "Championing" Sustainability

- Sources of energy
- Materials
- Water
- Frugality

The consumption of all of the above – what do they convey to visitors and the community about how UNI runs?

- A suggested way to think of it is "Health is Membership", and use sustainability to aid this.

UNI could “denormalize” the normal campus ways.

#### Frugality v. Abundance

- Can a building give something back?
- Can the university get people out of cars?
- Could the university use a mobility system with real time data?
- Could the campus reduce the use of fossil fuels?

Possibly focus on the next generation instead of totally focusing on the first generation.

There is a five-year plan available, but after the Master Plan development the whole five-year plan could change.

John talked about some energy data from the energy portal on the Facilities Planning website.

- Sabin Hall
  - 38% Energy savings
- Campus as a whole
  - Energy peak lowest since 2000
  - Energy usage trending down
  - Significant reductions
- Wind data
  - UNI can't take advantages of tax credits, unfortunately.
  - There is new cost data coming
    - Possibly contact a third party to take advantage of tax credits?

In regards to the LEED design construction, it was suggested that UNI take advantage of it. It is good for marketing and getting students in the school competition. If needed, the university could hire someone to guide staff focus on the issue. There is also an educational component – include students with post-occupancy evaluations of buildings.

Things to bring to the table for next time:

- Possible community partnerships
- Send suggestions to Phil for “round table” options/guests
- Potentially hear more from John and Mike about grounds and buildings
  - Presentation from Mike
    - A lot of sustainability examples listed and Mike's list to be put on Drive
- Green sourcing – What can the university be doing to embody this?
  - Identify steps to be where the campus wants to be.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30AM. The next meeting is scheduled for  
January 26, 2015 at 8:00AM in CBB 327.