Zero Waste SWATeam Meeting

Date: 2/26/21

Time: 4PM CDT

Attendees: Meredith Moore (iSEE), Tim Stark (co-chair & faculty), BK Sharma (co-chair & Faculty), Yuanhui Zhang (Faculty), Caitlyn Aylmer (Staff), Mike Olinger (Staff), Aaron Finder (Staff), Thurman Etchison (Staff), Cassidy Steel (Student), Jenna Schaefer (non-voting member), Julija Sakutyte (clerk)

Agenda

* Reusable containers conversation (follow up to Feb 12 presentation)
  + No updates on reusables conversation.
  + Still trying to figure out options with FA21.
    - If there is a to-go option, then at least a component of it will be reusables.
      * Primary target: To-go option in the Union basement.
        + Convenient location.
        + No impact on current operations.
        + Increases value of meal plans.

Students appreciate the convenience of the to-go option.

* + - * + Easy retrieval location.
        + Could be an opportunity to work with other third-party vendors in union to encourage reusables.
    - ~$136k Dining costs since March 2020 for the compostable clamshells.
      * $0.16 / clamshell
      * ~850k clamshells
  + No logistical issues with sanitizing/cleaning reusables.
  + May be some issues with drying and storage.
  + Reusable dining options could be good in building dining (Bevier, IGB, Beckman, etc).
    - Will depend on resources of the building.
    - Impact is highest in Dining establishments.
  + Draft a recommendation for Dining to pilot a reusable dining to-go option.
    - T. Etchison will draft a recommendation.
* ZW SWAT Students: Zero Waste Report
  + No Update.
* M. Liberman: NERC Recommendation
  + Any Support Needed?
  + No Support Needed.
  + No update.
* C. Steel: Adopt-a-highway/SWAT Cleanup Program
  + Any Support Needed?
  + No update.
* C. Steel: Composting Program, Urban Canopy
  + Any response? Does anyone have other contacts within circular loop composting?
  + No update.
* T. Etchison: Food Literacy Project
  + No update.
  + Students presented on signage that they would like to post in dining halls about Food Literacy.
    - Dining will be consulted to approve and modify/brand student projects.
  + Hoping to implement the Food Literacy Project within menu management.
* Roundtable discussion
  + Removal of F&S Virgin Paper from punch-out and reserving for special-use only.
    - F&S also purchasing from Office Depot
      * F&S will also be following the same purchasing standards.
    - Concern of people purchasing virgin paper accidentally or due to habit.
    - What does the purchasing system look like at F&S?
    - Would it be possible to remove virgin paper completely?
  + Elimination of thermal paper receipts
  + Education of waste management to students
  + Single Use Plastics in Vending Machines
  + Mitigating single-serve options in Union
    - C. Aylmer offered to assist.
    - ISEE ZW intern could also assist.
    - Modify/implement ideas towards more sustainable options after the pandemic and once more vendors come in.
    - Unsure of any options to progress on this item.
  + Reuse of Surplus Goods
  + Purchasing Order Fulfillment: Sustainable Options
    - Potential Recommendation
      * Suggest the implementation of change in operations to improve sustainability.
      * Ex: Using Office Depot reusable totes for POs.
    - Writing memo from F&S to Purchasing to implement these options.
    - Extensive reporting capabilities from vendors, which may provide insight into more sustainable material.
    - Strong push within F&S to create more sustainable purchasing operations.
    - Recommendation has been made from AF for an environmentally preferable condition added to the Terms & Conditions for vendors.
      * Could alleviate issues with enforcement of guidelines.
  + Sustainability Digital Booklet Review
    - Follow up: Workshops/engagement opportunities for vendors to show how to utilize sustainability options through their interface.
    - Some positive feedback, but no determined agreeance to a group webinar/event.
      * May be better to pursue a recording from vendors emphasizing the sustainable options within their system.
  + Purchasing Sustainability Report
    - Exploring plans to implement a sustainability report.
    - Now, there is work going into determining how to systematically implement an assessment framework of purchasing sustainability.
  + Battery Recycling