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