

Sustainability Task Force Retreat

Bauer Melcher Hall Room 302

July 1, 2010

9am-12pm

Attendance: Emily Messa, Donald Martin, Shankar Chellam, Maria Honey, Jonas Chin, Patrick Peters, Sameer Kapileshwari, Barry Lefer, Jeff Syptak, Mike Nagy, Leah Wolfthal, Christina and Rahil Shah.

- I. The Sustainability Task Force – Jonas Chin
 - A. Welcome to the Sustainability Task Force
 1. Charge of the Task Force
 2. Role of the Task Force Members/ Structure of the Task Force
 3. Agenda for the Retreat

- II. Progress Report- Emily Messa and Rahil Shah
 - A. 2009-2010 Recap: The Highlights
 1. Rankings and Ratings
 - Recognized by the Princeton review for being the nation's most Environmentally responsible university
 - UH ranks first in waste minimization in Texas
 - UH ranks 7th in the country for its waste minimization
 2. Upcoming Green Certification Program
 - Recognizes campus departments that have taken extra steps towards implementing sustainable practices. Departments/offices have to fill out the survey in order to get GREEN CERTIFIED
 3. Green Pledge
 - UH Students, Staff and Faculty pledge towards some simple actions from various categories for living sustainable at university and after graduating
 4. C.L.A.S.P. : Community Learning Agricultural Sustainability Program
 - Located at the North- east corner of Wheeler and Cullen
 - Have built a new partnership with Urban Harvest, classes are now offered at UH and in return we receive professional guidance with our garden
 - Houston Marathon likely to build relations with UH for its sustainable efforts

- III. AASHE-STARS- Emily Messa and Rahil Shah
 - A. Role of AASHE-STARS on Sustainability Task Force
 1. AASHE Purpose
 - AASHE is an association of colleges and universities that work together to create a sustainable future
 - AASHE works with all sectors of campus, including faculty, staff, administrators, and students
 2. Categories

- Administration
- Climate Change and Energy
- Food and Recycling
- Green Building
- Student Involvement
- Transportation
- Endowment Transparency
- Investment Priority Share holder Engagement

3. Categories of Focus for Fall and Spring

- Focusing credits for the above mentioned categories include:
 - Sustainable model dorm room
 - Theme of the year related to sustainability
 - Calculating university's GHG emissions
 - Vending machine sensors
 - More support by volunteers for Green events

IV. Energy Policy- Sameer Kapileshwari and Sara Carter Energy Policy

1. Elements and Categories of the Policy

- Policy stresses on LEED certification by constructing Green Buildings which serves energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction and improved indoor environmental quality

2. Keys to crafting the policy

- LEED provides building an identifying towards their green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions and thereby reduce the annual expenditure on annual utility bills of the university

3. Projected Timeline

- Draft to be presented and reviewed to the Task Force in October

V. Green House Gas Reduction Strategic Plan- Dr. Barry Lefer and Jonas Chin

1. GHG Reduction Elements and Categories in the Strategic Plan

- Energy purchasing, Burning natural gas and Transportation are the 3 main factors and categories for GHG

2. Models

- Tied with the Energy Policy

3. Projected Timeline

- 80% reduction by 2030

VI. Disperse and visit in Sub-committees

A. Setting the Calendar Dates and starting to talk about sub- committee roles

- Dates for the next meeting have been tentatively decided