

Task Force Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2009

Attendance: Morgan Kauffman, Alpa Vaghani, Representatives from ReEnergize Houston, Fred McGhee, Pat Sanchez, Sameer K. , Sevelia Johnson, Emily Messa, Ed Wigley, Mary Martin, Jonas Chin

I. Special Report from UH Dining Services

- A. Getting rid of Styrofoam in campus dining halls (OB and Moody) in the Spring 2010
  - 1. Styrofoam is used because of its cost, significantly cheaper than recyclable cardboard to-go boxes
- B. New program 5 universities (reusable to-go container) presented by Aramark Green Thread program for Sustainability
  - 1. Current model is Baylor
  - 2. Baylor used it as a pilot program last year, handing out reusable to-go containers
  - 3. Program had good results, lost about 200 containers, tracking the containers a challenge
- C. Aramark is giving UH 2000 free to-go boxes right now for pilot program in Spring
  - 1. Cost of each container is \$2.77 a piece
  - 2. No extra fee to students or anyone who uses the container
- D. Implementation -> issued to every student with a meal plan
  - 1. Student brings their box
  - 2. Rinses out box and then returns it
  - 3. If they want to eat out again, just return and given a new clean container
  - 4. Have not decided on tracking system, to be discussed
- E. Other Schools-> card and give it to person and they track it like that
- F. Will talk about containers at Green UH day.

II. Special Report by ReEnergize Houston

- A. Who? A non-profit group, working to bring awareness, funded by Houston endowment
  - 1. Working to educate students and encourage them to invest funds in campus sustainability
- B. Green Fee Campaigns : Green Fee Bill
  - 1. Advocating for a stand alone fee
  - 2. \$5 Student fee added to their bill, limit set by the state
    - a. Organic food options, lobbied with Texas legislature
    - b. Texas A&M voted in, 70% voted yes
    - c. Working with 66 schools nationwide, in Texas- UT, UTSA, UTEP
- C. Education aspect: Offering Trainings 12PM Baltic Oct 27<sup>th</sup> (GHASP), 12PM Atlantic 28<sup>th</sup> (climate protection Alliance)
- D. Summit on Nov. 18
  - 1. Trying to bring architecture program –Bring issues , university and funds

#### E. Steps being taken by ReEnergize Houston at UH

1. Talk to Task Force
2. Trying to Oct 28<sup>th</sup> get on the docket
3. Survey to UH students, talking to students about the idea
4. Hope for a Referendum in the spring
5. More information, visit [Reenergizetexas.org](http://Reenergizetexas.org)

#### III. Committees on Task Force

##### A. What is Curriculum sub-committee?

1. what to send out to departments, email course information
2. Push material out there
3. Create more opportunities in Undergrad research

##### B. Energy and Climate subcommittee

1. Carbon footprint-December Preliminary accomplishment

##### C. Co-Curricular

1. Accomplishment-Targeted Recycle Mania
2. Calendar- GreenUH and Spring events
  - a. Want to put down as lbs. more consistently

#### IV. Report by Fred McGhee

- A. Creation of an account to monitor the amount of recycled office supplies
  1. This is now in place and it supports the office supply swap-a-thon
  2. Helps keep track of cost saving in sustainable initiative
- B. Communication-staff newsletters are a great way to communicate
- C. Zip-cars are something to look into