Zero Waste SWATeam Meeting

Date: 4/9/21

Time: 4PM CDT

Attendees: Tim Stark (co-chair & faculty), BK Sharma (co-chair & Faculty), Thurman Etchison (Staff), Leah Courtney (student), Cassidy Steel (student), Alexa Smith (clerk), Julija Sakutyte (clerk)

Agenda

* May Scheduling & Summary of rest of semester
  + JS will be leaving position at the end of SP21.
  + Alexa Smith will likely be the new SWATeam clerk.
  + Meeting Schedule: 4/23 and 5/7
* C. Aylmer: Third Party Vendor Assessment Recommendation
  + Not discussed.
* Roundtable discussion
  + Elimination of thermal paper receipts
    - Tabled until next semester.
    - ***Potential Recommendation:*** Pursue sustainable receipt options to divert receipts from waste stream.
      * Change operations to eliminate paper receipts, where possible.
        + Add infrastructure to accommodate e-receipts.
      * Where infrastructure concerns arise, seek recyclable/compostable/biodegradable/etc receipts.
  + Education of waste management to students
    - Tabled until next semester.
    - LAS 101
    - ***Potential Recommendation:*** RA Training
      * Jenna will reach out to Sustainability LLC Director.
      * Thurman will reach out to housing director.
    - ***Potential recommendation:*** Education of administrators/purchasers.
      * P-card training.
  + Single Use Plastics in Vending Machines
    - This specific idea tabled until next semester.
    - Do we still want to pursue this?
      * Response lukewarm, as there are many barriers to the implementation of aluminum products, as well as a free standing fountain (RFID-tagged + dispenser).
      * Plastic is profitable again in recycling market.
    - Discussion: Water is the #1 vending machine item; why?
      * ***Potential recommendation:*** Survey on drinking water behavior.
      * Changing opinions on water behavior habits.
        + ***Potential Recommendation:*** Education campaign.