Zero Waste SWATeam Meeting

Date: 4/23/21

Time: 4PM (CDT)

Attendees: Meredith Moore (iSEE), BK Sharma (co-chair & Faculty), Tim Stark (co-chair & faculty), Caitlin Aylmer (Staff), Aaron Finder (Staff), Maddy Liberman (student), Leah Courtney (student), Jenna Schaefer (non-voting student), Alexa Smith (future clerk), Julija Sakutyte (clerk)

Agenda

* Elimination of thermal paper receipts.
	+ ***Potential Recommendation:*** ***Pursue sustainable receipt options to divert receipts from University 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.
	+ Need to assess facility abilities to incorporate sustainable receipts options.
		- How should we achieve this?
			* Contact units directly?
				+ AF will contact Todd Petrie to initiate contact with facility managers.
			* Feasibility Study?
			* Adopt a campus policy?
* Education of waste management to students
	+ ***Potential Recommendation: RA Training***
		- This could be a collaboration with the Engagement SWATeam.
			* JS will put chairs into contact with the Engagement SWATeam chairs.
				+ AS recommends developing the program further prior to seeking assistance from the Engagement SWATeam.
	+ ***Potential recommendation: Education of administrators/purchasers. P-card training.***
		- Purchasing Office just updated website with informational videos. Content could be developed through this avenue.
			* ***Potential initiative:*** Develop sustainability training slide deck to be read by a Purchasing Office employee.
				+ Pick a few sustainability items to highlight on iBUY.
				+ This could also be an opportunity for the Zero Waste and/or Engagement SWATeam.
				+ AF and Shantanu Pai could help develop content.
				+ Would be dispersed by OBFS communications and/or Purchasing website.
		- Additional option: adding content to the training sessions for new members.
* Water is the #1 vending machine item; why?
	+ ***Potential recommendation: Survey on drinking water behavior.***
		- Survey should seek to incorporate filtered water where unavailable, and to advertise the filtered water options.
		- ***Potential Recommendation:*** F&S Standard to replace water fountains with filtered water, adding sign to the fountain area/advertising the filtered water.
		- Research other institutions to see if initiatives have sought to reduce the impacts of bottled water.
		- Potential barriers: obtaining a representative sample in a study.
		- JS will ask Thurman Etchison about statistics about vending machine purchases.
	+ ***Potential Recommendation: Education campaign.***
		- Filtered tap water is really not a large difference to the tap water provided by the city.
		- Mitigate perceptions of reusable bottles (too bulky to carry around, no space on person to carry around), as well as perception of tap water vs bottled water.
		- ML: <https://www.fillitforward.com/>
			* Stickers to put on reusable bottles/custom reusable bottles
			* Campus-wide competitions to see who uses reusable water bottles.
		- MM: <https://www.louisvillewater.com/>
			* Louisville Water has a great campaign for promoting tap water.
		- Student thoughts on how to educate/engage community with reusable water options rather than single-use options:
			* Taste-test competition
			* Educational initiative to advertise potential addition of microplastic to water bottles
			* Create and disseminate video with scientist/researcher to show the quality of tap water.
			* Report/engagement piece on money savings for utilizing reusable options rather than single use.
* Roundtable Discussion