

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Planning Committee

Campus Governance

3-9-2021

Planning minutes 03/09/2021

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Planning Committee Minutes

3/9/21

Committee Members: Mark Logan (Chair), James Wojtaszek, Bryan Herrmann (ex-officio), Bill Zimmerman (ex-officio), Stacey Aronson, Keni Zenner, Laura Thielke, Mark Collier, Satis Devkota, Mitchell Moris (student), Brianna Dokken (student), Erik Kjer (student) and Alison Campbell (secretary)

Absent: none

Approve Minutes: yes

Guest(s): n/a

Scholar of the college

- The group wants to review the policy again before coming to talk to us. Per requests from the assembly discussion, they want more data on the award like: what class groups have received it and how diverse are the recipients?

Energy & Sustainability Update – Bryan Herrmann

- Overall goals
 - Achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2020 - Completed on the electricity side and working on the thermal side
 - Reduce Energy and Water Consumption
 - Demonstrate New Approaches that could be used in Rural Areas – partnering with WCROC
 - Reduce Waste (composting, planning during purchasing, etc) -
 - Collaborate through the Morris Model
 - Provide opportunities for students to learn
- Electricity
 - New solar array coming on line in the next month
 - Small flow battery – arriving in late April – May
 - Grant from LCCMR has been requested for a large scale (1 Megawatt) battery with Ottetail power – use for 4 hours
 - Explore more opportunities to add renewables with the WCROC work with Green Ammonia
 - Reducing electricity usage on campus – LED Replacements (reduced over 200kW), VFD installations, and controls upgrades
 - Electric Vehicle Charging – grant submitted for additional chargers
 - Demand Charge is calculated by a 15 minute window (peak demand) and we are assessed a charge for this. In summer this can be 40-50% of the campus bill.
 -
- Lighting Retrofit
 - 2008 campus entered into an ESCO to replace all lights with fluorescent lights
 - Decreased electrical usage by 1.5M kWh/year – saved \$75,000
 - 60% electricity is on site
 - Now we are replacing all of the 2008 updates with LED lighting and again reducing consumption in half or more.

- Garbage Reduction
 - Goal: By 2025 no landfill waste
 - 50% goes to North Dakota to a landfill
 - 50% goes to Alexandria to be incinerated
 - Reduced number of dumpsters because they were not being utilized.
 - Save \$30k a year
 - Compost a lot of waste
 - 60 tons a year
 - Everything at Higbys and TMC is compostable
 - We pick up the compost at the high school as well
- Thermal Efforts
 - Path to carbon neutrality with Ever-Green Energy
 - Geothermal Study with GEO-Optimize from Canada – looking at feasibility to heat our buildings
 - Convert building from steam to hot water
 - 75% are hot water – more efficient
 - Boilers - we have 3 steam boilers that use natural gas, 1 biomass boiler. Our boilers can run on fuel oil if we are curtailed it is expensive and has a higher greenhouse gas emissions.
 - We have 3 chillers to provide chilled water for cooling.
 - Operate Biomass plant is the goal right now.
- Potential community Integration
 - Work with the school district to pipe hot water to their buildings
- Morris Model Efforts
 - Achieve goals on a City and County level
 - Produce 80% of the energy consumed in the county by 2030
 - Reduce energy consumption 30% by 2030
 - No land-filling of waste generated within the county by 2025

Committee member questions

- Energy consumption – since campus was closed in the summer, did we save in peak demand and cooling energy? – Yes but the air handlers across campus were used a great deal this Fall so it evened out.
- What does it mean to be leaders compared to other like campuses?
 - Metric survey from NACUBO is helpful because a lot of schools don't know how much energy they use
 - Comparisons from our work with Sightlines a few years back was helpful as it had data from similar size institutions.