

Report to Staff Council

RISE Board Update
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February 18, 2013

RISE Board committee meetings were moved to 12:30-1:30 PM, Thursdays, to accommodate the new non-credit Sustainable Village Course (for housing occupants participating in the Sustainable Village program) which was scheduled over the original RISE Board meeting time. Meetings are to be held in the Kayak Room.

Chancellor Rogers was the guest speaker for the January 29 RISE committee meeting wherein RISE met concurrently with the Sustainable Village Course participants to hear the Chancellor summarize sustainable ventures since the start of his tenure as chancellor, and what the future may hold for sustainability on campus. Circumstances surrounding power plant renewal was a featured topic, as was the new 1 megawatt solar panel project located adjacent to the Butrovich building, and the potential new photovoltaic exterior siding concept for the engineering building expansion project.

The RISE Board voted to continue to hold two set proposal periods during the upcoming academic year with an option for a third proposal period during the summer, depending on the level of student interest. Some thought was given to eliminating the set proposal periods in lieu of a continuous proposal format wherein students could submit proposals to the Board at any time. The deadline for the Spring 2013 proposal period is February 28 at 5 PM.

A subcommittee was formed to obtain information on the current efforts by the Faculty Senate to revise the baccalaureate core curriculum. At the January 29 presentation, Chancellor Rogers indicated that the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee was working on a complete revision of the baccalaureate core curriculum that might include an embedded academic requirement concerning sustainability. The RISE Board is interested in reaching out to students to promote the submission of sustainability proposals. Incorporation of sustainability in the baccalaureate core could help the Board realize that end. The subcommittee will explore the implications of adding sustainability to the baccalaureate core.

The RISE Board maintains a keen interest in recycling efforts on and off campus. As such, in an effort to assess current recycling efforts by the Fairbanks North Star Borough, a subcommittee on recycling was established. The subcommittee will gather information on the current status of recycling at the Borough, and explore partnerships to promote recycling with local businesses through the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.

A presentation was heard from Erica Blake on the viability of hybrid-electric buses on campus. The hybrid buses are ideal for stop-and-go situations, such as on campus, and produce significantly less emissions such as nitrogen oxide, methane, and carbon dioxide. The buses are about 80 percent cheaper to fuel, running on a combination of diesel and electricity, but cost roughly \$150,000 more to purchase than a standard diesel bus.

UAF Green Bikes has a new website. The recycled bicycle rental program is also trying to identify how many bicycles it needs to be effective and will make plans, following that analysis, to secure the needed bicycles.