

Report to Staff Council

RISE Board Update

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In March, the RISE Board considered 12 proposals for spring term project funding including community garden expansion, a new community garden for the Sustainable Village, a proposal for a bike shelter at MBS, a portable renewable power generation project, research into a diesel-electric hybrid shuttle bus, expansion of recycling in the residence halls, food waste bins, solar photovoltaic cells, and more. The committee had \$150,000 to fund proposals, \$109,000 was requested, and funded \$105,000.

[Earth Day](#) is April 22. Through the Office of Sustainability, RISE is sponsoring a number of events for the day and throughout the week. Be sure to participate in the reusable bag exchange where you have a chance to exchange reusable bags that you might not use for ones that you think you will use. You can also just donate your bags to the effort, too. Other events include learning how to turn an old shirt into a bag, video and microphone/stage events in the Wood Center, the annual Sustainable Art Show in the Wood Center, a Slow Motion Race put on by Green Bikes, booths, trivia, and more. Beware of the Bag Monster! But really, it's a gentle and kind Bag Monster, who will be wearing over 500 plastic grocery bags while collecting signatures to ban plastic grocery bags from campus.

Three subcommittees have been formed around areas of specific need for the RISE Board. Subcommittee membership is limited to RISE Board members. Subcommittees are established with a purpose, but no distinction is made on whether the subcommittee is standing or ad hoc.

- 1) RISE Subcommittee on Recycling – Seeks to a) help the Board formulate its strategy on campus recycling efforts, b) facilitate campus recycling effort coordination with the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and c) identify recycling infrastructure needs and solutions.
- 2) RISE Subcommittee on Sustainability in the Curriculum – Seeks to a) coordinate RISE Board interests in sustainability with ongoing work in Faculty Senate and its General Education Requirements Committee, b) develop opportunities in sustainability curriculum development such as enhancements to existing courses and academic programs, or the development of new courses and academic programs, c) coordinate curricular efforts towards maximizing the institution's sustainability score per the [STARS](#) rubric, and d) develop academic opportunities for student projects in sustainability.
- 3) RISE Subcommittee on RISE Vision – A very new subcommittee dedicated to developing a coherent strategy for the Board as it moves forward. One specific issue to be addressed by this subcommittee will be to come up with ideas for how to make the campus sustainability effort sustainable. The Student Sustainability Fee is due to expire in approximately seven years. RISE would like to make sustainability a permanent feature of campus life in some capacity. This subcommittee will address the long-term outlook for RISE and tackle other issues such as identifying ways to increase the number of submitted student proposals, identification of annual themes or areas of focus for the Board, and giving the Board a strategic, objective outlook.

Miscellany: RISE met with Mark Ha of ABM waste management to discuss current policy on custodial collection of recyclables on campus. Mr Ha was very helpful and offered a number of suggestions while taking Board member input. ... RISE Board members designed a simple logo for the day-glo jackets for use by the UAF Recycling Crew which should be visible on campus over the coming year. ... The Board is developing a simple survey to investigate how the

presence of recycling bins in Moore and Bartlett residence halls has impacted student perspectives on the value of recycling. ... Brett Parks stepped down from chair of RISE in order to finish his thesis. Wyatt Hurlbut will chair the Board for the remainder of the term while Ben Abbott will serve as vice-chair.