## University Sustainability Committee 4-25-16 (9:30 AM to 10:30 AM)

In attendance:

Amy Hasson Eric Berkheimer Jeff Canada Jeff Downes Dave Gutoskey Kevin Mann

- e. Friday Native Species plant installation, supported by the Green Fund, next to the Link of Nations along with a "build your own terrarium" project in Red Square, which was well received.
- f. Next semester, the campus will be going tray\_less in the Commons. Dining will be purchasing lighter, break resistant tableware, instituting tray rack changes, silverware on tables and other changes to make the transition smooth. Students are working on an education campaign and will have an open forum for student to air opinions.

## 3. Solar Parking Canopy Projects Update

- a. Standard Solar is the project contractor
- b. A contract is being developed which is a "Power Purchase Agreement", meaning there are no up-front nor maintenance costs for the project. In this scenario, the university purchases power for 20 years and will own the project at the end of the term.
- c. Danny Ervin was unable to attend but wanted to share his concerns regarding the campus engaging in a solar project. His concerns are noted below:
  - Currently, solar PV is the second most expensive method to generate electricity. The driving force behind this technology is the generous subsidies at the Federal and State levels. The cost of these subsidies are funded by taxpayers and ratepayers.
  - ii. Current Maryland policies, net metering specifically, 5(i)13mete5e31 Tm[. His c)10(o)-51 end of

- a. This semester, Steven Rogers was a student intern shared between Sustainability office and U-ASC
- b. The carbon footprint calculator which was formerly uses contained a significant amount of information which was not applicable to SU. The modified version is SU-centric, user friendly, very informative, and is able to be modified in the future to accommodate future technology. It is also setup to be useful to classes and includes conversion factors to make the output in useful units.
- c. The new calculator will be shared with the committee at a future meeting, this fall.

## 6. Green Fund Update –

- a. FY 16 budget was \$43,000
- b. FY17 \$128,000 (\$8 per full time student / semester)
- c. Fund will top out at nearly \$192,000 in FY19
- d. A summary of projects was provided in a handout.