

UVM Real Food Working Group
December 7, 2016 | 8:30-10:00am | Aiken 311

Facilitator: Gina

Notetaker: Bridget

Present: Bridget, Gina, Alison, Annie, Taran, Olivia, Abby

Agenda

Introductions and Icebreaker (10 minutes)

- Name, preferred pronoun, role/affiliation
- What are you looking forward to for winter break?

******Please enter schedules for Spring 2017 into outlook by Friday 12/9******

Calculator Role & Sustainability Manager Update [Alison] (10 minutes)

- Hiring process for new sustainability manager is moving along
- Melissa is willing to help fill the gaps until new hire
- Abby's work as Calculator Intern will be overseen by both Alison and Annie
- Abby and Alison will spearhead summer calculator intern's recruitment so their training won't fall under the new sustainability manager
- Expanded role of product research group will support Abby in this transition
- Relationship with NRS 295: Alana is willing to do a scaled back version of a TA to preserve her knowledge and relationships with vendors
- Additional fundraising necessary to cover remaining intern and TA hours for the year: sending out requests to new departments
- Seeking new chef representation in this group to replace Kate Hayes

Product Procurement Group [Abby & Bridget] (5 minutes)

- Current projects
 - Group is developing patterns, establishing consistent work days and pacing research.
 - Still working on current assignments: checking 2.0 Standards against past purchases
 - Aiming to finish October audit before break
- Future opportunities: new product research

Class Partnerships [Gina & Alison] (20 minutes)

- NFS 295: Sustainable Food Purchasing
 - Presentation discussion/discussion of results
 - Taran: noticed a gap in knowledge about subcontractors
 - Alison: it was encouraging to see higher % than last year's numbers. Each student had suggestions for each vendor. On average the groups really committed.
 - Annie: Alana's role and knowledge is crucial to this class's success
 - Slideshows will be shared with group once Alana has checked numbers.
 - Lessons learned:

- Looking in to having a student present about RF along with the Sodexo & Subcontractor presentation: Olivia's Percoco's Spring 2016 presentation for CDAE 095? Bridget volunteering to present & have relationship with that class.
- CDAE 250: Research Methods
 - Waiting for final results to come through from surveys
 - Looking for someone to comb through results and analyze them in more depth (last year's analyst did a senior thesis with it)
 - Lessons learned
 - Alison: Conducting research in the dining hall: students eating food was an unexpected challenge - thinking strategically to prevent this in the future - in-kind donation? Different interview location? Clearer expectations?
 - Gina: Can we invite this students in these classes to the % party to celebrate their work and contributions?

Real Food Revolution Club [James] (10 minutes)

- New leadership: Jillian Brown and Isabel in co-presidency
- Working on budget for next year
- Recent events:
 - Migrant Justice Benefit Dinner-
 - Huge success! 50 person turnout. Raised ~400
 - Potluck style: donations from Sugar Snap, Intervale, Champlain Orchards. All local seasonal vegetables
 - Going to write up lessons learned
- Upcoming Events:
 - Team up with Peace and Justice center about fair trade & cocoa -**Date TBA**
 - Soul Fire Farm workshop--historical oppression in the food industry, CSA, -**late March**. Lots of interest.
 - Working Group tabling opportunity - keep in mind for next semester
 - RF presence at Social Justice Coalition at UVM
 - Tuesday night 7pm phonebanking for Juntos: bring a charger!
 - Saturday Migrant Justice party on FB page & other social justice related events this weekend: Surge, RAD - Rights And Democracy
 - Social media strategizing between RFR and RFC FB pages

Food Policy Update [Bridget & James] (5 minutes)

- We are in a really solid place with the document!
- To do: choose leadership of the document: the Dean of students, Annie Stevens
 - Waiting on a meeting to present document
- Still looking for input! Michelle has contributed crucial non-RF perspectives. Feel free to comment on doc & send to James

% Party Update [Bridget] (10 minutes)

- Date/Location in progress

- How to balance celebrating UVM dining with not making the catering workers work extra to prepare food for us?
 - Local food
 - Battle of the campus chefs model: RF members help prepare food
 - Would have to be under UVM catering. We have to look into it
- Looking for team members
- Olivia: What if we reach <20%? Abby: Thomas Milk may put us over.
- Alison: Goal to have February analysis done to predict 2017 percentage by the party. My hope is that we will be over 20.

Infrastructure Team Update [Alison & Taran] (15 minutes)

- Meeting with Terry & Taran
- Where is there opportunity to support farm infrastructure updates with RF?
- Uphill climb within bureaucracy to make the case for farm improvements.
- We can be an ally in supporting what's already going on at the farm and bringing in a different set of priorities.
- Partnering with Sodexo more: they don't have enough processing/ storage space
 - Hort farm could turn into UVM Dining food hub: could collect food
 - Prioritize seasonal purchasing
 - Meeting with Kate before she leaves to pick her brain
- Olivia: seeking support within CALS for Hort Farm
- Alison: historically the dairy farm received more funding, went 4x over budget... "Some of the social capital has been used up regarding farm improvement... bringing UVM Dining to the table could offer some leverage that CALS on their own didn't have"
- UVM owns the kitchen space & cafeteria, Sodexo uses it. Under the table financial input in new infrastructure on campus as well.
- Taran: "if authority of this project was shifted new resources and opportunities could be opened up."
- Alison: "we'll be one voice at the table among many in support of UVM Dining and the UVM Hort farm"
- Clear need for more storage at farm! Wash station, cold storage, light processing facility, classroom for farmer training program. Carrots moved on 3 occasions!

Recruitment (5 minutes)

- New membership applications due 1/23
- Please distribute widely!

Project teams work time (15 minutes)

- What's occurring during break?
- Plan to meet before break?
- Who is point person?