

40% Local and Sustainable Panel Meeting – 7/21/17

Agenda:

- Update on June 2017 Food Panel Progress Report – *15 minutes*
- Workgroup break-out time – *20 minutes*
- Updates from Workgroups: – *10 minutes*
 - Communications
 - Definitions and Criteria
 - Governance
 - Sourcing, Data Metrics, and Transparency
- Engaging the University Community in Recommending Sources – *15 minutes*

Participants:

Present:

Ahmed, Zia (or alternate Holford, Lesa)
Brown, Matt
Chang, Sophie
Hoy, Casey
Kawa, Nick
Langen, Gina
Pierron Rasul, Nicole
Reeves, Tom (alternate for Calhoun, Molly)
Schmiesing, Ryan
Shelton, Mike (alternate for Bartter, Kate)
Snyder, Brian
Usher, Kareem
Velez, Thelma
Wituszynski, David

Not Present:

Brown, Sarah (or alternate Larson, Kate)
Reynolds, Mallory (or alternate Hoerst, Tyler)
Jones, Julie (or alternate Folino, Mike)
Schaller, Leslie
Spees, Colleen

Minutes:

- Engaging the University Community in Recommending Sources
 - June meeting had some conversation regarding topic
 - Activities: 1) actively seeking out producers 2) trying to understand the current landscape to understand what is available – Dining Services actively does this already
 - Need to have a thoughtful approach in moving forward

- Start with OSU students – lot of students from OH have farm connections – how can we gather this info? Reach out to FFA; student groups in CFAES; weekly newsletter that goes out to students on Sunday evenings; Sustainability Council; possibly a short survey – USG could help push; Outside of student body – we should be working with OEFFA to reach organic producers; distribute flyer at farmer’s markets across region
 - We need to be prepared for the fact that interest could grow greatly; need to be strategic in how we handle incoming communication; need to be thoughtful in how we communicate the criteria that we are looking for – much easier to work with farmers who are networking in a co-op (example – GRO model); need to communicate that we don’t have trucks or resources to pick up produce – farms need to organize themselves – Dining Services can help identify the criteria that we are looking for
 - Tie into Buckeye ISA project with the creation of contract models that can be used with producers via an RFP or RFQ process
 - Telling the stories behind our food sourcing is also important: possibly a Lantern article; local food showcase event on Oct 16; Dining Services updating website this fall to tell these stories; can help tell stories through Discovery Themes communication
 - The panel has not clearly defined what we mean by “local and sustainable” – is it overlapping or separate? Is it a realistic goal? Aim is 40% local, 40% sustainable – separate aspects – but we hope at some point they can overlap; we accept the fact that 60% of the food will not be local and sustainable
- o Workgroup reports:
- Definitions and Criteria:
 - Panel will need to rely on certifications to a large extent – group developing a list of certifications for use by panel; What is the process that panel will go through in order to incorporate an exclusion case for firms that don’t have a certification (often happens with businesses that are too small to invest in certification)? Need help from governance group/panel in creating an exclusion protocol – what would we accept and how would we make that decision? We could possibly create a fund to help in certification cost-sharing
 - Expanding sustainability matrix from 2-D to 3-D chart; sustainability and sustainable food not falling into just one category but three categories – reflecting triple bottom line
 - Group is working on defining food to qualify for 40% criteria but also need to talk about what would disqualify food and make it automatically fall in the 60% category; Group will develop a plan for communicating criteria to campus community and beyond
 - Communications:
 - June 2017 progress report: Small edits to be incorporated from Brian Snyder – to connect with Gina Langen post-meeting; Gina to then send final report to panel leadership; Leadership to send report to OSU administration – copy Ryan Schmiesing and Tom Reeves and note “we expect to share with the university community by Sept 1st unless you have reservations”; regroup at August meeting about sharing report starting Sept 1st
 - Gina Langen to take over leadership of communications workgroup
 - Governance:

- Tom Reeves to take over leadership of governance workgroup
 - Jill Clark to join group
 - Tom to set meeting for group to connect further
- Sourcing, Data Metrics, and Transparency:
 - Data from producers is being gathered by Dining Services – currently focusing on produce
 - Medical Center also working on gathering data
 - Don't have data from Business Advancement yet
- o Miscellaneous:
 - August panel meeting to focus on strategic priorities for academic year, 2017-2018 meeting schedule