**Landscape Stewardship Committee (LSC)**

**10/2/19**

**Meeting Notes**

* **CERA Website**
  + A student is currently working on increasing content on the website.
  + In the meantime, there is now a CERA page on iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=any&project_id=cera-umbc>) You can sign up and add your observations!
  + The CERA committee is working on adding a weather station on the site.
* **Invasive Plants Training with Leslie Morgan**
  + We will continue to plan this event for this semester, if there is time and next semester if the timeline is too tight.
  + Leslie Morgan suggested that we partner with the Wisdom Institute for both the training and the weeding workdays.
* **Ryan Kmetz, New Assistant Director of Sustainability**
  + Ryan has only been here a couple of months, but has already accomplished a lot.
  + UMBC’s Climate Action Plan is being revised now. A draft should be ready by mid-January and presented to shared governance groups in February and March, with the goal of having an approved plan by the end of the spring semester. The new plan will be a living document and will be revisited every 3-5 years.
  + The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. UMBC has begun to assemble data for STARS and hopes to be completed by the end of the academic year with certification/results hopefully by August. Certifications are Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Ryan believes UMBC will earn a Gold rating.
  + Green Office Certifications will begin again soon. Eco-Ambassador interviews are happening now.
  + The Sustainability Matters web page has been updated: <https://sustainability.umbc.edu/>.
  + Be sure to check out the new UMBC Sustainability Retriever Map! (<https://umbc-ges.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=fa97fa3fb3b548988f7547f980cba006>. Big thanks to SGA for their help with this!
  + Next month, an announcement will be made that UMBC is participating in the Trex University & Community Recycling Program. (Trex makes plastic decking.) “Trex is proud to sponsor local recycling programs in universities and communities throughout the country. If your team can collect more than 500 pounds of plastic refuse in a six-month span (about 40,500 plastic bags), we’ll donate a high-performance composite bench to your school or community.”
  + A Sustainability Timeline for UMBC, mapping our progress so far, is underway.
* **Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant**
  + The rescheduled (due to thunderstorms) spring planting was very successful and got rid of a lot of invasive weeds in the process.
  + A second planting will occur on the last Friday of October. These will also be trees purchase with the grant funding.
  + If you would like to help with the planting, please contact Larry Hennessey: [larryh@umbc.edu](mailto:larryh@umbc.edu), or 5-1667.

Feel free to send questions my way.

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