

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: October 29, 2015

PERSON PRESIDING: Eban Bean

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Eban Bean, William Hill, Tony Capehart, Carolyn Willis, Njinasoa Randriampiry,

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Koch, Lauren Gunter, Jill Twark, Scott Lecce, John Gill

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Griff Avin

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Griff Avin Report on campus sustainability initiatives/survey.

Discussion:

A survey has been completed on sustainability policies and is being compiled and submitted to UNCGA. This is a 'first stab' at trying to get a snapshot together to consolidate ECU's efforts to reduce energy usage.

Catalogs were searched for sustainability oriented keywords and other basic language data across the UNC system. Looked at construction, facilities management, and a number of other areas.

Still in process of working towards the full-blown STARS report (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System – <https://stars.aashe.org>). Looking to work collaboratively with the UEC to contribute information on sustainability concerns, needs, and initiatives.

Getting this work on paper and baseline data involves incorporating the principles of the strategic plan and should help to highlight where we are doing well and where we have areas that need improvement. STARS requires public posting and will pertain specifically to our campus. Data on our sustainability initiatives and successes will be available on the ECU website for marketing and promotion as well as transparency. The sustainability committee plans to work with the UEC on possible workshops, curriculum integration, and information distribution to students and faculty regarding sustainability initiatives and goals.

The University is making efforts to incorporate social component of sustainability including input from HR and other campus departments to go beyond the typical energy and material resource issues into the social components.

Candidates are being interviewed for a new Sustainability Manager position. Campus visits will happen with two top candidates next week. Eban asked where the Sustainability Manager position landed in the University structure. Currently the position will report to Griff. There is a wide variety of departments across the UNC system as to where that position resides/reports. How this position fits best in the ECU ecosystem is still being explored moving forward. Both the Sustainability Manager and the Energy Manager (Tom Pohlman) will have offices on Main Campus and the Health Sciences Campus, will share an office, and report to Griff Avin with the aim of encouraging synergistic overlap between the two.

One candidate visiting Wednesday 11/4 at 2pm

2nd Candidate visiting Friday 11/6 at 2:30pm

Venues for candidate presentations are still TBA as of meeting time.

Start date for Sustainability Manager is TBA

Agenda Item: Sustainable/safe cleaning products

Discussion:

John has requested a report from housekeeping on use of sustainable/safe cleaning products but has not yet received response.

Action Taken:

John will share the response from housekeeping at next committee meeting

Assigned additional duties to:

Agenda Item: Bicycle/pedestrian issues

Discussion:

Greg reported in absentia that bike share was a failure due to key/lock issues but a bike rental program is being developed. Bill reported that Parking & Transportation Services (P&T) collaborated with Student Rec and Wellness to create a daily bike rental program that augmented the existing (by semester) bike rental program run by P&T. P&T provided some bikes and SRW did all the heavy lifting. Both units worked together to promote the program, but there just wasn't enough demand for the daily rental so the bikes have been transferred back to P&T to be part of the existing bike rental program. Info on bike rentals can be found at <http://www.ecu.edu/bikes/>.

A plan going forward for an updated city plan regarding pedestrian safety is being developed with a task force. Jill Twark has volunteered to participate on that committee.

Griff Avin mentioned that crosswalk issues and pedestrian traffic safety on Health Sciences campus are being discussed. Study from last year on pedestrian traffic has been shared with city and updated into master plan.

Greg reported in absentia that there is a bond referendum regarding pedestrian and bike traffic and safety issues and encouraged members to vote on the referendum. There is a committee opening on the Greenville Bicycle and Pedestrian commission and they're looking for an ECU representative.

Agenda Item: FROGGS/Greenway progress

Discussion: Jill Twark reported about last month's meeting of the Friends of Greenville Greenways organization and Greenville city officials on the status of greenways in the city. Currently, greenway expansion is progressing slower than expected due to higher costs than anticipated. Construction is underway on some parts of the Evans/Charles spur behind the stadium.

Town Common west to Health Sciences greenway is also progressing slowly due to some resistance from the veteran's organization, because the Veteran's Hospital is along the greenway route and hospital administrators do not want greenway users to park in the Hospital parking lot. Furthermore, the greenways have incurred increased costs due to poor soil quality. The greenway will get split into 2 phases: next spring

they will start and go to Nash Street and then seek additional funding for the remaining distance to Health Sciences. There has been a request for a possible spur from ECU to hook up near the Veterans Hospital. There is a city bond issue for greenways and sidewalks coming up in this election.

Action Taken: FROGGS and City will meet again December 16th at 3pm in the Public Works Building on Beatty Street. Questions/comments on the greenway or any other bicycle/pedestrian issues can be sent to Jill Twark via email to take to the meeting.

Agenda Item: Composting efforts

Discussion: Cooperative extension was contacted and there is interest in looking forward on a more local composting option rather than shipping to Zebulon. Food waste is currently going to the landfill. Still looking into the sustainability of shipping waste to composting facility in Raleigh and weighing cost of shipping vs. environmental impact. Still currently unfeasible to compost on campus facilities due to costs, permits, and producing more compost than we can use. Further options are still being explored.

Action Taken: Eban will report back as information develops.

Agenda Item: Eco Pirates and Students for Sustainability

Discussion: The groups did merge and are now the Eco Pirates for Sustainability. No further reporting at this time.

NEXT MEETING: December 3, 3:30pm*

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- Updates/Follow ups on criteria for sustainability courses (Griff Avin) – need to align with STARS criteria. Griff Avin will send along pertinent sections of the STARS reporting.
- Coal Tar Sealant usage update
- Engagement with new Sustainability Manager
- Any further pertinent updates/follow ups on the current UEC initiatives

(*NOTE: December meeting was later canceled.)