

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE ACADEMIC AND APPELLATE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021 Academic Year COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

Membership (include ex-officio members). Regular members: Susan Pearce (Chair), Tammy Lee (Vice-Chair) Lisa Beth Robinson (Secretary), Tomika Williams, Marc Peterson, Ex-officio members: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Gregory Kearney, Bill McCartney, Chad Carwein, Mark Sanders, Lucas Snyder (student body representative)

Meeting Dates (include members present).

August 27, 2020. Regular Members in Attendance: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Lisa Beth Robinson, Marc Petersen, Tomika Williams, Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor. Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Tim Christensen, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Thompson Forbes. Others in Attendance: Puri Martinez, Rachel Baker

September 24, 2020. Regular Members in Attendance: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Lisa Beth Robinson, Marc Petersen, Tomika Williams, Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor; Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, William Hill, Thompson Forbes, Lucas Snyder; Others in Attendance: Terry Little, ECU Recycling Coordinator

October 22, 2020. Regular Members in Attendance: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Lisa Beth Robinson, Marc Petersen, Tomika Williams, Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor; Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, William Hill, Thompson Forbes, Lucas Snyder; Others in Attendance: Terry Little, ECU Recycling Coordinator

November 21, 2020.

January 28, 2021. Regular Members in Attendance: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Lisa Beth Robinson, Marc Petersen, Tomika Williams, Kerry Sewell; Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, William Hill, Thompson Forbes, Lucas Snyder; Others in Attendance: Rachel Baker

February 25, 2021 Regular Members in Attendance: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Marc Petersen, Tomika Williams, Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor; Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, William Hill, Thompson Forbes, Lucas Snyder; Others in Attendance: Rachel Baker, Honors students: Heather, Jonathan, Ethan

March 25, 2021. Regular Members in Attendance: Susan Pearce, Marc Petersen, Tomika Williams, Akshat Kapoor, Kerry Sewell, Tammy Lee; Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, William Hill, Thompson Forbes, Lucas Snyder; Others in Attendance: Rachel Baker

April 22, 2021.

Accomplishments during the year. Please include recommendations made to any University agency other than the Faculty Senate.

The 2020-2021 UEC worked on developing webpage highlighting ECU's natural areas, and progress was made on this webpage since that time.

Under the direction of Chad Carwein, ECU's Sustainability Manager, ECU earned a Silver rating from The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) and was listed in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges for 2021 as one of the top 416 green campuses in the United States.

<https://news.ecu.edu/2020/11/02/ecu-earns-national-recognition-for-its-sustainability-efforts/>

The committee supported and helped publicize the important work of Mr. Carwein, including the Sustainability Film Series, which continued on a virtual platform, and community-based initiatives such as the community garden.

ECU Natural Areas: Otter Creek site: Under Mr. Carwein's direction, the committee made major headway this year toward advancing the possible future use of this site by faculty and students. Committee members toured the site, and Mr. Carwein investigated the mapping of the site's boundaries and led student volunteers to mark the boundaries and do some initial trail-marking and clearing. The committee discussed a possible future reopening ceremony for the site.

Recycling: The committee received updates from Terry Little, ECU Recycling Coordinator, and asked questions about changes in recycling rules. A particular concern was raised about the change in Pitt County's recycling that will no longer accept glass. The committee discussed possible solutions and educated ourselves about the current situation.

Confetti: The committee continued to proactively address the problem of with confetti strewn on campus for graduation photos and celebration, which came to the committee's attention during AY 2019-2020. Chad Carwein launched a social-media campaign and worked with faculty and students to promote alternatives to confetti, such as blowing bubbles, making biodegradable confetti, or using telephone filters. This included tabling initiatives at the ECU Student Center. The committee contributed ideas, helped spread the word, and supported this campaign. Given that the confetti problem continued, we recommend that this campaign continue, beginning mid-fall semester at the latest, for AY 2021-2022.

The committee proposed two resolutions to ECU Faculty Senate, which passed:

1. **Resolution on Beverage Contract:** The resolution would have charged the company under consideration, Coca Cola, to commit to reducing single-use plastics on campus. However, Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson did not approve this resolution when it reached his desk.
2. **Resolution to Support ECU Honors Students Regarding Tobacco Use on Campus:** The Resolution, also approved by the SGA, supports students working amend North Carolina General Statute Chapter 143 Article 64 Parts 596 and 597 to give UNC system campuses local autonomy to declare a campus to be tobacco-free or to change the range of required tobacco-free space surrounding campus buildings. The Chancellor signed this resolution. The committee has continued to support this bill, which was making its way through the legislative process as of May 2021.

Buildings and Sustainability: The committee had a productive meeting with John Gill, Assistant Director of Facilities Services Grounds Services – Landscape Architect, ECU. We submitted requests that new buildings and renovations of existing buildings take sustainability into account, including storm-water runoff and green roofs, etc. Mr. Gill was very supportive and answered questions. He shared a landscape architectural drawing of a green space in the Brewster Building courtyard, but there are no funds for this.

Building health: The committee discussed the need for faculty and staff to understand the mechanisms for reporting any concerns about building health and risks to employee health. Bill Koch educated the committee about his department's work, and the committee plans to work on a communique or guide to help employees navigate the process.

Divestment from Fossil Fuels: In the committee's final meeting of the year, we met with Chris Dyba, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, to learn about university investments, and the potential for disinvesting those resources from fossil-fuel-based companies. We learned that divestment campaigns have become mainstreamed and that environmental sustainability investments are considered to be more profitable and secure. There are already advising companies that lay out divestment plans, and we were encouraged that ECU may be open to this. We will return to this question in Fall 2021.

Reports to the Faculty Senate (include dates and resolution numbers). Business carried over to next year (list in priority order).

1. Continue conversation with Chris Dyba, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, on more concrete action plans regarding divestment, if possible, including a possible Faculty Senate resolution.
2. Continue working toward the goal of making opening the Otter Creek site to faculty and student use. Continue to promote the potential uses for
3. Continue plan for more easily accessible communiques to the campus community about sustainability, including recycling, building health, etc.
4. Continue plans to reduce littering and safety concerns associated with graduation confetti

Evaluation of the committee (include anything that hindered or assisted the committee's work during the year).

1. Charge: no concerns noted
2. Personnel: no concerns
3. Attendance: all meetings were reasonably well attended. All meetings were held virtually, given the pandemic restrictions.
4. Responsibilities: this committee differs from most in that it has no specific responsibilities that are set forth, which allows freedom to pursue different avenues of work but also puts a responsibility on the committee to initiate projects
5. Activities: the committee was able to be more active this year, after adjusting to a break from activities during Spring 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

Suggestion(s) to the Chair of the Faculty for improving the effectiveness of the committee. No suggestions

Does the Committee's organizational meeting next year need to be earlier than the date set this year? No

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Signed: Chairperson

Vice Chair *Tammy D. Lee*

Secretary 

Please forward the completed, approved annual report to the Faculty Senate office via email (facultysenate@ecu.edu) no later than May 15, 2020.