

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Academic Year: 2022-2023

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

Membership (include ex-officio members). Regular members: Kerry Sewell (Chair), Marc Peterson (Vice-Chair), Lisa Beth Robinson (Scribe), Susan Pearce, Alison Swift, Akshat Kapoor, William Hill. Ex-Officio members: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Gregory Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Joshua Gardner, James Loudon, Tyler West (Student Government Association representative)

Meeting Dates and Members Present:

September 22, 2022. Regular Members in Attendance: Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor, Marc Petersen, Lisa Beth Robinson, Alison Swift. Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Chad Carwein, Joshua Gardner, James Loudon, Tyler West. Others in Attendance: Anne Ticknor, Rachel Baker

October 27, 2022. Regular Members in Attendance: Kerry Sewell, Marc Petersen, Lisa Beth Robinson, Alison Swift, Susan Pearce, William Hill. Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Josh Gardner, James Loudon, Tyler West. Others in Attendance: Rachel Baker

November 17, 2022 Regular Members in Attendance: Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor, Marc Petersen, Alison Swift, Susan Pearce, William Hill. Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: James Loudon, Joshua Gardner, Dean Smith, Greg Kearney, Bill Koch, Tyler West, Chad Carwein

January 26, 2023: Regular Members in Attendance: Kerry Sewell, William Hill, Lisa Beth Robinson, Akshat Kapoor, Susan Pearce, Alison Swift, Marc Petersen. Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Joshua Gardner, James Loudon, Tyler West,. Others in Attendance: Puri Martinez, Rachel Baker, Phillip Lewis

February 23, 2023: Regular Members in Attendance: Lisa Beth Robinson, Akshat Kapoor, Susan Pearce, Kerry Sewell, Alison Swift. Tim Christensen, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Joshua Gardner, James Loudon, Tyler West, Bill Koch. Others in Attendance: Sammy Snead.

March 23, 2023: Regular Members in Attendance: Lisa Beth Robinson, Akshat Kapoor, Susan Pearce, Kerry Sewell, Alison Swift. Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Tim Christensen, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Joshua Gardner, James Loudon, Tyler West, Bill Koch, Greg Kearny. Others in Attendance: Jill Twark

April 27, 2023 Regular Members in Attendance: Kerry Sewell, Alison Swift, Lisa Beth Robinson, Susan Pearce, Marc Peterson. Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Bill Koch, Tyler West, Chad Carwein, James Loudon, Josh Gardner, Dean Smith. Others in Attendance: Rachel Baker

Subcommittees established during the year (include progress and/or completion of work).

Sustainability Course Designation subcommittee

Members: Chad Carwein, Alison Swift, William Hill, Kerry Sewell, Marc Petersen, Greg Kearney
The subcommittee met with Rachel Baker to discuss the processes and stakeholders that are key to establishing a course designation. Based upon Rachel Baker's recommendations, the subcommittee asked Dr. Puri Martinez to meet with the full University Environment Committee to provide counsel on course designation considerations and procedures. The subcommittee also met with the Chairs of the

General Education Committee (Mary Tucker-McLaughlin) and Service Learning Committee (Jill Twark) to ask for their understanding of the process and the required documents to move a course designation through the required bodies. The subcommittee then created a list of required items, including learning outcomes, forms, process-related documents, etc. The subcommittee created a definition of Sustainability for the purposes of course designation, provided a justification for a Sustainability course designation, and a set of learning outcomes. Those items were discussed in the full committee and approved. The work will continue into next year.

Renewable Energy and Divestment subcommittee

Members: Susan Pearce, Akshat Kapoor, Chad Carwein

The subcommittee met with Faculty Chair Ticknor to better understand the means of ensuring that the recommendations that ECU divest from fossil fuel industries and invest in renewable energy for its campuses reach the Chancellor. The subcommittee made edits to the statement that had been written in the prior academic year under the chairpersonship of Susan Pearce. The subcommittee also worked with the Student Government Association and the Staff Senate to move the statement through those respective bodies, with alterations that made the principles and recommendations acceptable for those bodies. In April, the Faculty Senate voted upon the statement. All three bodies voted in favor of the recommendations.

Brewster A-Wing Investigation subcommittee

Members: Greg Kearney, Bill Koch, Phil Lewis (OEHS)

The members of the Brewster A-Wing Investigation subcommittee worked to communicate with NIOSH about the status of the building health investigation and relayed all updates to the full committee in a timely manner. The subcommittee also discussed the appropriate means to communicate findings and improve the website dedicated to the investigation in order to support employee concerns and information needs. Following the release of the NIOSH report in April, the subcommittee provided the full report, along with the responses to NIOSH recommendations, to the full committee. The members of the subcommittee will continue to work on implementation of the planned communications strategies outlined in the university's responses to the recommendations. The final report is available through the Brewster A-Wing site (<https://oehs.ecu.edu/2021/12/brewster-a-wing-updates/>). The website contents have been considerably expanded for the purpose of moving the information within the linked documents into a more accessible format, improving transparency and providing clear summary information to campus stakeholders and external community members.

Accomplishments during the year:

Coordination with Staff Senate and the Student Government Association to ensure that the importance of renewable energy was expressed across key stakeholder groups at ECU

The University Environment Committee successfully coordinated with the other two bodies engaged in shared governance, the Staff Senate and the Student Government Association, to ensure that the voices of the staff, students, and faculty were heard in the call for purposeful investment decisions that represent the values of ECU. The SGA representative, Tyler West, was essential in the work with the SGA. Likewise, the work of Chad Carwein was essential to the successful vote on the Statement in the Staff Senate.

Coordination with the Student Government Association resulted in the passage of AR 8-01, Request for Action Towards Renewable Energy. The members of the SGA revised the language of the University Environment Committee's Statement in Support of Renewable Energy Actions to create a resolution reflecting the concerns and focus of the Student Government Association. The SGA passed that resolution, AR 8-01, Request for Action Towards Renewable Energy, on April 19, 2023.

Coordination with the Staff Senate resulted in a favorable vote on the Statement in Support of Renewable Energy Actions. This vote occurred during the April 13, 2023 meeting of the Staff Senate.

To the knowledge of the members of the University Environment Committee, this marks the first time that a coordinated effort across all three bodies has occurred.

The committee began the process of requesting a Sustainability Course Designation. Although this effort is described in the work of the subcommittee more narrowly focused on this process, this work is reemphasized here. The majority of the year was spent learning the elements needed for a complete 'package' when asking for a new course designation, the other stakeholder groups involved, and the processes for requesting and implementing a course designation. Based upon the information-gathering steps, the committee will have a clear set of steps to continue following when the committee reconvenes in the fall.

The committee learned more about sustainability initiatives in the course of pursuing an endorsement of the Statement in Support of Renewable Energy Actions. The committee met with the Energy Manager, Sammy Snead, to learn more about assessments of university energy use, installation of solar trees to offset e-vehicle charging, and costs and considerations in installation of solar panel arrays. The committee also read and provided feedback on an Engineering Capstone Project proposal Chad Carwein created within which there are descriptions of assessments of buildings for renewable energy installation.

The committee learned about proposals to extend the Greenville Greenways. The committee invited Jill Twark to discuss the proposal to expand the Greenway that currently terminates in the Belk Campus lot so that it extends to the shopping center across from the Greenville Mall on Greenville Boulevard. The committee reviewed the proposal, asked for additional information, and provided feedback on the proposal to Jill Twark.

Reports to the Faculty Senate (include dates and resolution numbers).

April 25, 2023. The University Environment Committee brought the Statement in Support of Renewable Energy Actions. The committee also provided formal advice on the PRR Allocation of Office Space

Business carried over to next year (list in priority order)

1. Continue to prepare for a proposal for a Sustainability Course Designation. The full University Environment Committee voted in favor of the Definition of Sustainability, the justification language to use, and the proposed learning outcomes that would need to be met by a course applying for such a course designation. Procedural documents and the systems needed for implementation will be worked on in the next year
2. Renewable Energy and Fossil Fuel Divestment will be a continued focus for the committee, with a follow-up with ECU administration to ask about implementation of any of the recommendations in the statement approved by Faculty Senate, the resolution passed by the SGA, and the resolution passed by Staff Senate
3. Follow-up with the NIOSH report and recommendations. The committee will provide feedback on the implementation of the university's formal responses to the NIOSH recommendations from the final report

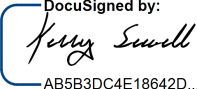
4. Outreach and promotion of the Otter Creek site for research and education. The committee will focus efforts on promoting awareness and use of Otter Creek for education and research

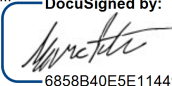
Evaluation of the committee

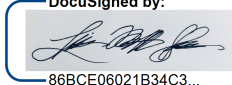
- A. Charge: no concerns noted. The committee discussed the possibility of a change to its charge that may be necessitated by any establishment of a Sustainability Course Designation; this is an action item for the future
- B. Personnel: no concerns
- C. Attendance: attendance was reasonably good throughout the year, though teaching schedules in the spring semester impacted the ability of some faculty to attend
- D. Responsibilities: this committee does not have preset responsibilities, but followed through on self-assigned responsibilities that are intended to better position the university within a framework of sustainability and ensure that employees work in safe environments
- E. Activities: the committee was able to move several initiatives forward and created a set of concrete, next steps for the subsequent year

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.

Signed: Chairperson: 
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Vice Chair: 
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Secretary: 
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Please forward the completed, approved annual report to the Faculty Senate office via email (facultysenate@ecu.edu) no later than May 15.

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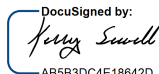
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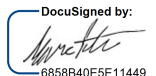
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Browsers (for SENDERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0? or above
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Email:	Access to a valid email account
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Allow per session cookies •Users accessing the internet behind a Proxy Server must enable HTTP 1.1 settings via proxy connection

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