

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: 09/26/2019

PERSON PRESIDING: Carol Goodwillie

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Goodwillie, Jennifer Valko, Lisa Beth Robinson, Susan Pearce

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Koch, Chad Carwein, Mark Sanders, a *student body rep has yet to be appointed*

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jeff Popke, Faculty Chair

ACTIONS OF MEETING: Approval of minutes

Edits needed:

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Appointment of Officers

Discussion: Jeff Popke, Faculty Chair, welcomes everyone and thanks them for serving, reminds us that our willingness to serve is a model of faculty governance. He introduced Rachel Baker, Lori Lee's replacement. Describes the election process and attendance policy. Chad Carwein raises a question about Fac Senate Resolution-it has been passed! Fac Senate Resolution #19-33, April 2019.

Action Taken: Carol Goodwillie accepts the nomination to chair with the contingency that Susan Pearce, who accepts the Vice Chair position, will co-govern. Lisa Beth Robinson will continue as secretary. All candidates were nominated, seconded, voted in by acclamation, and agreed to serve.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Business held over from last year: analysis of natural areas & sustainability survey results attachment.

Discussion: Carol brings everyone up to speed: last year we revised the charge, did some work with master planning; did a survey of faculty, advertised that ECU has

underutilized spaces for research, gaged interest in using the spaces. She noted that the Qualtrics survey came in after the semester's work was over, that there is a really nice data set of results for us to work with, and we need to figure out what we want to do next.

Chad mentioned the second part of the STARS survey, which the committee selected as a goal to work on. It identifies faculty who are engaged in research related to sustainability. This is time sensitive, as the data has to be submitted in February of 2020. Chad discussed the history of STARS at ECU and noted that he has a list of 337 faculty who were engaged, and that there are about 220 sustainability-focused courses, 220 sustainability-inclusive courses. Jennifer Valko inquired as to whether the survey questions could be formulated in a way that would allow them to align their research with these points and Chad noted that it was a more open-ended survey.

The committee discussed the best ways to get the survey to the faculty and inquired how to get support from the upper administration. The provost has already agreed to support the survey; the next step is to get this on the agenda of the Dean and Directors' meeting. Bill Koch is going to send the request to Mitchelson and Popke.

Chad describes the work he and the sustainability intern are doing with the university catalog to gather data for STARS. Carol discussed the types of classes that include/focus on sustainability but may not appear that way in the catalog. She suggested sending the list of courses out to her department and the faculty can see if your course is on there, if faculty think their courses should be on there, rather than relying on faculty to self-report. It was suggested that the committee asks the Deans and Directors to do the same with their respective faculties.

It was also noted that sustainability is now mentioned in the strategic plan for the university.

Action Taken: Bill will send the request to present at the next Dean and Directors meeting. Chad will give the 4-minute presentation.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Other unfinished business from last year: ways to make sure faculty know how environmental health is monitored in buildings; another item came from a very impassioned email Carol received on leaf blowers-is that something that this committee wants to pursue; and the last item regarded consideration of campus bike routes, where people who are in bike groups would be consulted regarding new construction and the committee could help put a protocol in place.

Discussion: The bicycle conversation stemmed from the construction of the new Life Sciences building and the curb cut by the Christenbury Gym (this was done to address ADA requirements). The Committee's success last year in getting an area (by the flood lot leading up to Elm Street) repaved and expanded was noted for the new members. Another area was noted by Mark, riding down College Hill crossing 10th St., which is known as a tire popper. The discussion turns to the DOT and their prioritization of projects. Bill notes that ECU is planning to redo the whole area in front of Christenbury Gym, to make it more of a pedestrian and green space.

Mark inquired as to the status of the bike sharing program since Lime Bike is leaving. Bill noted that the upper administration does not support a scooter program. Chad said that we have signed a contract with Gotcha bikes, who are behind on production due to high demand.

Susan Pearce updates the committee on building health. She brought it up because there have been four pancreatic cancer deaths in Brewster. ECU tested the water, air (only the A wing) and everything came out fine. She noted that we have asbestos abatement every summer, but some of the other issues might be good to take up, and asked how we inform people in these/other buildings. Bill said he would see what is available on the EH&S website and bring the information back to the committee, who will decide how to proceed.

Action Taken: Carol is putting building health/making data available on the next agenda.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: The activity building around getting oversight over major natural areas (West Research Campus and Otter Creek).

Discussion: Carol noted that no group has oversight over the areas, and that the university is also getting requests for committees with oversight over these areas. Two years ago she/the committee sent a request for this committee to Chancellor Staton regarding the use and management of those areas and we were turned down. He said it would be addressed in the master planning process. However, the master planning process had no interest in off-campus natural areas. The last master plan said the areas were not deemed part of their process. We have a new chancellor and some activity building in those areas; perhaps we can leverage this to think of a way to move back in that direction.

Susan suggested using survey data to generate the movement.

It was noted that some committee members outside of the natural sciences had never heard of these areas. Jennifer asked if there are student groups that work in these areas. Chad said the EcoPirates worked out there. Jennifer suggested having some of the students advertise and get other students to participate; honors students could design an honors project around that as well. Perhaps there's a way to reach out to those groups to come up with a plan.

Other groups mentioned to assist with this initiative were ReLeaf, the Biology Graduate Student Association, and the Coastal Society.

Action Taken: n/a, will be revisited at next meeting

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

NEXT MEETING: October 24th, 2019.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- building health/making data available
- oversight over major natural areas
- progress with STARS survey