

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: October 22, 2020

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Lisa Beth Robinson, Marc Petersen, Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Chad Carwein, William Hill, Thompson Forbes, Lucas Snyder

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

ACTIONS OF MEETING: Approval of Sept 24, 2020 minutes

Edits needed: none. Unanimously approved.

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Senate resolution re: Beverage contracts.

Discussion: Thank you to the committee for approving the resolution. It was approved by the Faculty Senate and sent to the Chancellor for approval. The FS was also presented with STARS data, which received a warm reception. It was noted that the next sustainability film (about cargo bikes) would be shown on the evening of 10/27.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Otter Creek Walkthrough on 10/27.

Discussion: Committee members were reminded that the OC site walkthrough would be on the 27th, and we will be joined by professor emeritus David Knowles (biology). A link was sent to the committee. There was discussion about the history of the property and attributes of the property including topography and ownership. There was additional discussion of the city buying property for a new park, Wildwood, and the city's intentions for its space and its potential attributes (water sports and other amenities).

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Confetti concerns/reducing graduation litter

Discussion: The committee is going to work with students to address the issue through education, creating signage, and a social media campaign. Chad discussed Facilities putting signs up the second week in November for December's graduation. We will do a dry run this fall with a much earlier/intensive campaign in the spring, including biodegradable options and social media filters. We plan to work with the bookstore to only stock biodegradable confetti.

Action Taken: Lisa Beth will follow up with the Visual Arts Forum (student group); Tammy Lee is reaching out to students in education, and Lucas will be reaching out the campus republicans, college democrats, and young democratic socialists; and Tim will continue working with the Honors students who wish to work on the issue.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Building health [Brewster].

Discussion: The discussion of listing Brewster and other potential sites/buildings on campus that may be scrutinized continues.

Action Taken: On hold at the moment but suggestions are welcome.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Recycling.

Discussion: Terry Lee found a company that will be able to take glass for recycling in a dumpster near surplus. The challenge will be to monitor the amount of material because of expense and a lack of workforce to handle the materials; there are not enough

resources to take glass from the community-it would overload the operation. The recycling crew may do a pre-sort to be sure the glass is separated.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Amending the NC law re: tobacco free zones on campus

Discussion: An honors student is working on this resolution to first go to the SGA. The question is, how can we get the east campus to extend the tobacco prohibition beyond 100 feet of buildings and, eventually, become smoke-free. Once a contingency of students is on board and the resolution passes the SGA, it will be proposed system-wide and get taken to legislators, with the force of a quarter of a million students behind it. The medical campus is already tobacco-free. The students asked that the UEC endorse this resolution, and get it on the faculty senate's December meeting agenda. A long history of the situation was provided by several committee members. Bill K related how the designation was applied to the medical campus. Tim is working with the honors students and they will continue moving forward with the project.

On another note, Gerald Weckesser's honors students are working on the edible landscape initiative/campus orchard at Stratford Arms. Plans have already been drawn up and rendered and the project is now in a fundraising phase.

Action Taken: The committee voted to endorse the resolution.

Assigned additional duties to:

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: John Gill visit

Discussion: The committee is interested in inviting John Gill to our next meeting (or early in the spring) to discuss current projects with him. Questions the committee has for Mr. Gill include a green wall and arbor at the Jenkins Fine Arts Center, Susan has questions about the Brewster courtyard, and XX [sorry, didn't catch who said this] would like to ask him about stormwater runoff and new construction on campus. This led to a discussion about construction standards, the town creek culvert, and the new Life Sciences building. There are questions about sediment and erosion control, rain gardens (Bioswales?), and curb cuts for bicycles and wheelchairs.

This led to additional discussions about whether or not the University is investing in fossil fuels for its portfolio and Foundation money, as well as how the foundations and endowments are managed. Pursuing this matter was tabled for the moment until more research can be done. Chad was at a conference (ASHI) where these issues and progressive financial strategies were being discussed/implemented, nationwide. It is a tough battle with a small ROI but may still be worth fighting. This will be added to the list for next year.

Action Taken: Committee members will continue putting questions together for Mr. Gill.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2020

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Updates on outstanding issues listed above, conversation about Mr. Gill's visit.

Remaining Meetings for the year:

- January 28, 2021
- February 25, 2021
- March 25, 2021
- April 22, 2021