

Meeting Agenda
University Environment Committee

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: MS Teams

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Old Business for discussion
 - a. Report on Oct. 27 Site walk-through
 - b. Confetti concerns: student coalition (see Appendix A)
 - c. Faculty Senate resolution regarding beverage contract renewal: Chancellor rejection (the beverage contract was signed with Pepsi for 10 years):

Faculty Senate Resolution #20-64:

Approval of the Resolution on the Beverage Contract.

“Contract terms can no longer be changed since the beverage contract has already been awarded. In the RFP request, each bidder was asked to provide the University with their sustainability plans and efforts. It is not necessary to include the University Sustainability Manager in contract negotiations. The Sustainability Manager can provide input before the next contract is negotiated. Additional questions can be directed to Dr. Sara Thorndike, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.”

- d. Building health (no updates)
- e. Recycling: This month, Pitt County commissioners voted 7-1 to pursue a grant for glass recycling for the county. From *The Daily Reflector*: John Demary, solid waste director, is seeking a grant from Glass Recycling Foundation. “The grant will require a 25 percent match from the county. Demary wants to purchase 30-cubic-yard containers, which cost about \$5,000 apiece, for each convenience site. The containers would have an A-frame roof and sliding doors to allow users to more easily dispose of their glass.”
- f. Student resolution to amend North Carolina law regarding tobacco-free zones on campus: to go before Faculty Senate in December

IV. New Business for discussion

Visit by John Gill, Assistant Director of Facilities Services

Grounds Services – Landscape Architect, ECU

Questions from the Committee:

- Can we request that curb cuts for bikes and wheelchairs be on the agenda for any construction / renovation of buildings?
- What is the process for turning the space in part of a building into a green space?
- How could the courtyard of Brewster be greened?
- What is the planning to manage storm water runoff for new construction, such as planting rain gardens?
- Other questions

V. Announcements

VI. Adjourn

General Committee information:

Roster of Committee Members:

<https://facultysenate.ecu.edu/university-environment-committee/university-environment-committee-roster/>

Remaining Meetings for the year:

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

Appendix A: Email composed by Chad Carwein, Susan Pearce and Holly Matthews, forwarded to Dean Smith for dissemination to ECU students November 9, 2020.

With fall graduation in our near futures, we ask for our new graduates to help us stem the use of confetti for graduation photos. We know how special this photographic effect is for our students, but please be aware that it causes litter and harm to our natural environment. The multi-colored confetti particles are made of plastic and metallic paint and do not break down. Further, they are littering steps to classroom buildings, and require tedious work by our resource-constrained grounds staff to clean. Particles that fall on the ground are seeping into soil and water run-off and get picked up by lawn mowers that spread it further.

Effects on the environment:

- Confetti and glitter are made of plastic, which is non-biodegradable and is litter
- Birds and animals mistake the confetti for food and the plastic and toxins can kill them
- Confetti ends up in storm drains, which lead to our local creeks, rivers, and lakes causing contamination

We know you care for our beautiful campus and for the sustainability of the natural environment. Fortunately, students on other campuses are taking the lead and creating confetti alternatives, including using hole punchers to make confetti from leaves. You can also use an app to create a nice confetti filter on your photo. We hope ECU students will join this effort proudly.

Alternatives to confetti:

- [Ecofetti](#) – water soluble and floral options that disappear in 5-10 hours after heavy rainfall
- [Confetti Bar](#) – solufetti breaks down when exposed to moisture and sproutfetti includes seeds that grow wildflowers
- [Ultimate confetti](#) – water soluble rice paper confetti that dissolves quickly when wet
- Bubbles – why not just have fun blowing some harmless bubbles instead?
- Photo Filters – come on it's 2020 and we have more technology than we know what to do with so get creative here

If you insist on throwing confetti for your graduation photos, please put a blanket on the ground or bring a broom and dustpan to clean up after yourself. One more request, please do not pop bottles of champagne or sparkling cider on campus, especially in high-traffic areas like the fountain and steps of the Flannagan Building. We had someone slip and could have gotten hurt because of the slick steps.

Thank you for your cooperation and we congratulate you on your graduation!