

University Environment Committee – January 23, 2020 minutes

Attending: Greg Kearney, Tomika Williams, LBR, Mark Sanders, Rachel Baker, Susan Pearce, Chad Carwein, Carol Goodwillie

Susan and Carol are having a fundraising gala, 1940's radio hits "Gather Round the Radio", full meal, \$70, silent auction, lots of entertainment, Hilton, Feb. 15 at 6pm. You can get tickets online. Greenville Choral Society. Fancy dress.

CG thanks everyone for coming. No specific actions for this meeting but Chad has a ton of updates. Lots of good stuff to talk about. We've got a quorum so this is an official meeting. Introductions were made to reacquaint ourselves. No edits for meeting notes, approved by acclamation. Although we don't have a specific "to do" list, Carol notes that we will prioritize the website and who needs to do what to move it forward. It will be under the sustainability umbrella.

CC sustain.ecu.edu. Everything is on there from reports to operations (energy water waste transportation food dining grounds), academics (sustainab. Courses and engaged faculty-data taken from STARS report). There are plenty of places the natural areas page can be formed-it's wordpress. West Research campus and Otter Creek to start (WRC is on the bio dept page).

CG can update the bio page. CC said take it, put it in a word doc, and he can put it into web format. We need more pics, updates bc there are things not listed. CG also wants to give people info on who to contact if they want to start a project out there. She'll check with the person and see if she's ok with that on the website. CC suggests turning it into a form that would go directly to that person, to streamline the process. Those are ways to enhance the utilization of the space. CG in the last minutes it said we need to find out if we should encourage people to use it (recreationally). CG has written John Gill about that issue and he hasn't written back. She left it open "perhaps I shouldn't even be asking". It is likely that the U does not want to encourage recreational use, but would support educational/research use. She's a little worried that by pushing that question we'll wind up with a sign that says we can't use it. A lot of locals use it in a low key way. Perhaps just by telling people it's there, we don't have to put up a sign/sentence on the web page. CC says less is more. Rather than restricting access, we get a laundry list of things we can't do out there. Susan-we talked about that in the subcommittee meeting, things like hunting. CC notes that guns have been heard out there. CG that's a separate issue to pursue with grounds, how we can make it safer out there. That's unrelated to getting a website. CC suggests talking with Bill Koch (EH&S, UEC) about risk. Carol says we may need to talk with the lawyers. CC Education and research is what it's intended for. CG and if there's a place to go to get permission for your educ/research, that can have the list. CC said the option (of which site to use) can be on the website form. CG-Dawn Pilgrim Dunn is in charge of WRC. Otter Creek is the problem-nobody is in charge of it. Maybe go to John Gill? CC he may refer to someone else about Otter Creek. I can build the foundation for the site, populate it, and we can add to it. Carol will rework the text, Chad will build the page. Carol will contact the

current person in charge of that and see if she's open to having her name on the website. Carol sent Chad the list that Susan typed of people interested in connecting with other sustainability researchers. Chad can't figure out where Bob Chin got his numbers (from AY 14-15.) Most of the answers Chad got were "no, I don't do that". He reported that we've gone down from 330 to 72. Most of that is response rate. Not sure what kind of magic Bob was able to work to get that list. We get what we get on STARS; the issue is that the most responses he got were from Brody, Tech/Engineering, and the Arts. VC Stacy, who was running the Dean and Directors meeting when Chad came to speak, seemed to take it as a charge to get responses. The list that he has on the academics tab is a list of faculty involved in sustainability research. It's Bob's list, and is being updated. In terms of people who want to interact with others engaged in sustainability work, most people who responded to the UEC survey are already on his list. There are people who are passionate and personally motivated to get more involved with sustainability. It could be housed somewhere but not on the academic page. Carol noted that in the survey, we actively solicited people who are interested in getting involved with sustainability researchers; she wants to follow through and send them the spreadsheet and connect them. They can also be directed to Chad's website to find other resources.

CC when we started looking into this more, to develop the list of engaged/want to be more engaged people, he was thinking about UNCG's Sustainability Fellows program—that was through the sustainability fee. He was also thinking about sustainability faculty meet-ups. There are some groups out there, pretty successful in having monthly gatherings. There's the Coastal Integrated Programs who have "Going Coastal". There's also "STEM at Starlight". These folks are already on his list. When we send out the list, we can also send out the name of these groups. Basically it's a faculty member coordinating these gatherings; that person can reach out to the people interested in getting involved. i.e. if you would like to be engaged in these events, contact Sid Mitra. Carol asks LBR if art would be interested. LBR says yes, there are specific faculty who come to mind. Carol said she'd be happy to take groups out there on Friday afternoons. Susan asks if Harriott college responded much. Chad said there were some, i.e. Biology, but not nearly what he anticipated. She didn't think the Chair sent anything out. You could tell whose dean sent something out, i.e. College of Business. Susan asked if she should send it out again. Chad has sent the STARS report already, but it would be of benefit to have the information; he can reach out to specific classes, faculty, etc. So yes. Tomika asks about Nursing, wants to resend because they talk about these issues in the health realm but under a different context. She thinks there would be a better response with a little explanation about the connection. Chad mentions the SDGs and how they directly relate.

Susan mentions the article about PFALs/PFAs.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/22/us-drinking-water-contamination-forever-chemicals-pfas>

Carol brings up the issue of the hawks. Mark Petersen (ENGL), the person who wrote in, has joined the committee. He'll be here next meeting.

Susan-about the workplace issues regarding pancreatic cancer deaths in Brewster's A-Wing. The school came and tested and found that things were within safe levels, but Susan learned that another, younger woman who worked in Brewster just got diagnosed with a cyst on her pancreas. Although cluster studies are done, and although this is anecdotal, I'm wondering if we should pursue this. Dean Downs was really upset and I'm not sure where we can go.

Greg-Nat'l institute for occupational safety and health-NIOSH-they investigate issues around occupational health. They'll investigate at no charge. Mark asks if there's any statistical analysis of this being coincidence? Susan notes that it's a pretty high occurrence. Mark notes that within a certain window the odds may be astronomical. Greg notes that NIOSH would do case histories on people to find out what they have been exposed to, what they drink, smoke, where they lived. If there's a town with a cluster, they'll define boundaries, find an incidence rate, and base calculations from there. He did this in a former life.

Carol asked if the new case is definitely cancer. Susan can find out. The person knows we were looking into this and said

Greg notes sometimes a state OSHA is first contact and they might refer it, but an institution/business can make direct calls. Greg will send Susan the link. Chad asks what depts are in Brewster's A-wing. Susan: poli sci, philo, hist, soc, econ, ECU early college. No occupational types of

Susan-every summer they say they're doing asbestos abatement. Chad also notes they clean the pipes with chlorine, so depending on when they did the testing (if it wasn't in June) they're not getting the time when pipes are getting cleaned out. GUC only tests at the point of entry. Chad notes we have a report-chemistry, toxicology, folks who can take another pair of eyes on the report. The timing of the testing should be under consideration. Greg can send the report to the state toxicologist to have them

G Trihalomethanes associated with certain types of cancers. Long term exposure. Difficult to show causation, but it's warranted if a lot of people have cancer.

Susan-lifestyle and demographic possibilities may explain it-men are at higher risk than women-but now there's a woman.

Carol – does anyone feel like there's anything this committee ought to be doing at a broader level?

Greg-maybe developing a type of procedure/protocol that people can go through when there's a health-related threat. CC the U should be doing and documenting it. G worked in a trailer near the pond. The Dehumidifier in the trailer went out while he was on vacation, came back to mold, and the response by the U was that we can move you, but the other people weren't moved. From a liability standpoint, people should have options when their health is threatened. prospective health

Susan asks Chad who to contact. Chad says EH&S. If it isn't getting addressed, go to HR to resolve a dispute when you don't think it's being adequately addressed. This is a

little beyond his knowledge. Carol notes that we started the conversation with Bill Koch and he seemed open.

LBR if nothing happens, contact a journalist they get things moving. Greg NIOSH will contact the entire building, person by person, and will go more in depth than EH&S. Things are kept confidential because it's a federal agency.

Chad mentions Matthew Prinsky, who wrote about how fire trucks couldn't service the high rises, and the leadership about the Greenville Fire Chief. "Where there's smoke, there's fire" He now works for the Daily Reflector. Mark gave us the backstory-it was fascinating. The city manager wound up convening a task force. The conversation went into how it was a good series of investigative journalism.

Carol talks about what's on the EH&S website. Susan was wondering if it's better that someone from the school contacts NIOSH rather than her. Carol notes that the school has already done what it's going to do, so Susan is going to contact Bill and ask if he knows who would be a good representative to contact NIOSH (Greg notes that they won't want to do that-there's safety and compliance and they're looking at other things). Susan has another idea-meet with their dean, who is a chemistry prof who cares about faculty, and thinks she might know who to ask. Greg notes that the agency is there for folks to report. If the people up top intervene to downplay it.... Chad notes that EH&S is down multiple positions (at least 30 people in the last 9 months) so they don't have a lot of eyes and ears on the ground and they probably won't be able to intervene. Greg will send Susan necessary info.

Chad notes that there should be an inquiry form on EH&S. LBR agrees, this would be good for the UEC to help put a protocol in place.

CC-we talked about the confetti issue. Bob Chin has a class broken into 5 project groups, one is going to work on the confetti issue. He presented all the issues we discussed last time, and the students will run with our ideas. Each of the groups are trying to submit their proposals for RCAW. Those abstracts are due in a few weeks, will try and get as much as they can done so they have something to present.

STARS-we have enough points to get a rating of silver. Silver required 45 points; gold 65. We are at 55. Mitchelson sent an executive letter supporting the report. Chad will get STARS feedback in a few weeks, we should have a final score by end of Feb at the latest. We'll publicise this. Monthly film series-first film is Feb 12, in the black box theater of the new student center. "To the Ends of the Earth". How exploited energy sources have become. He'll send a flyer out to the committee. Jake Hochard, economist and candidate for District 9, will lead the discussion. Earth Week-50th anniversary of Earth Day. April 22, 1970! Everyone feels old.

There's a girl, mid-20s, Greenville Cara Castellow is now Aramark's 20 hour a week sustainability student. She's a student at ASU. We're going to invite her to the next UEC meeting. "Weigh your Waste"-dump the food waste into a clear bucket, create a visual.

Steven Moyse with the Water Resource Center-fact gathering about how to establish a sustainability LLC. Earliest date, Fall 2021.

There is also rumor among the admin about creating an Environmental Studies Major/Minor. Chad is pushing for the minor because it can be tacked on to anything. LBR talks about having been approached, mentions Beth Bee and that she'll be teaching a seminar next spring. Beth and Chad have been brainstorming and they're looking at how to piece together the minor. Now this came out of left field. If anybody learns more about it, please let him know. We discuss UNC-A, UNC-G, Elizabeth City has a sustainability program. Carol agrees that the minor. Could see bio students tacking it on; Tomika points out that nursing would also be interested. It seems that a minor or Greg notes that a certificate (4 classes) could be good. Chad notes about core classes for the minors (economics, environment, equity/social dimension)-take two from each category, to get a true sustainability rounded viewpoint. Susan asks about the Coastal Studies Minor. Discussion turns to Semester at the Coast.

Final announcements/actions? Greg sent Susan the link. There's a number to call for info, looks very straightforward. Needs two more people. Susan will call to find out the process, report back to the Committee.

Committee adjourns.