

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: August 27, 2020

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Christensen, Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Thompson Forbes

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Puri Martinez, Rachel Baker

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Housekeeping and Introductions

Discussion: Dr. Martinez makes opening remarks and introductions, and with Rachel Baker walks the committee through the committee's page on the Faculty Senate website. She reminded the committee of our responsibility, making sure that the physical campus is healthy, and summarized the points of the committee's charge. It was noted that this committee actually has the possibility not only to report to the faculty Senate but to make specific recommendations to administrators regarding our charge so we have more independence than other faculty Senate committees. Highlights from the Guide to Faculty Senate Committees were presented and it was noted that we serve here in accordance to our ability, training, and experience, that we are not representatives of our electoral units, and that we are here to ensure that all the views of faculty, staff, and students are represented. The role/responsibilities of the committee's chair were discussed and the way to get on the agenda for the Faculty Senate. Our meeting notes are being kept in a Faculty Senate SharePoint file, and we have a Teams site set up for us.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Officer elections.

Discussion: Motions are made and seconded for Susan to become Chair, Tammy Lee as Vice Chair, and Lisa Beth as Secretary. There is no opposition and these are

unanimously approved. The regular meeting time was approved as it stands, 3:30 pm once a month on Thursdays.

Action Taken: New officers are elected.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Outstanding business from last year

Discussion: Interest in faculty using the West Research Campus was revisited, including the need for updating the trails and signage at Otter Creek. We discussed putting the research happening at the WRC on a web page.

Another outstanding item on the agenda was building health, particularly the air and water quality in Brewster. Ongoing.

Implementation of plans regarding reduced littering and safety concerns associated with graduation will be addressed with the assistance of various student groups and an information campaign (signage, social media) to raise awareness of the problem. This past spring was, despite Covid, the worst it has ever been. It was suggested that students in the Business School and School of Communication be approached.

An update on the beehives (West Campus) was presented. One hive of the two is doing well. Chad will resume working with the Tar River Beekeepers once social distancing ends.

The issue of problematic leaf blowers on campus and community bike routes (can we formalize the protocol to have the impacts on these by campus construction considered during planning processes) are still being addressed.

Action Taken: Susan and Tammy Lee are continuing to gather information on Brewster. Chad is pursuing positive resolutions to the pollution and beehive issues. Thompson offers to help as his dad is a beekeeper and he helps out.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Voyages of Discovery-Environment series

Discussion: This year's speakers were presented and discussed, as were the prohibitive technical challenges of hosting a virtual film series. It may be necessary to ask the library to purchase access through Kanopy. It's suggested that Jeremy Miles (ENGL) may be able to help.

Action Taken: Chad will follow up with this.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: ECU's STARS rating (The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ <https://stars.aashe.org/>)

Discussion: ECU's rating has been raised from Bronze to Silver. The report is taken every three years. We now will work toward gold, then platinum. The data here also relates to issues such as salaries so may be of interest to other committees such as Faculty Welfare. It will also be relevant once we begin discussing budget cuts and where they will be applied. Also discussed was how this may be affected by the change in the City of Greenville's recycling rules (no glass).

Action Taken: This will be added to the UEC web page. Chad will draft a press release. He also sent the committee the link to the city's recycling page.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Puri has been invited to join the committee after she wraps up her Faculty Chair duties due to her enthusiasm for the UEC's activities.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 24, 2020

## ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

Old business:

- Plans to move natural areas toward teaching/research use: Oct. 27 Site walk-through
- Building health
- Confetti concerns/reducing graduation litter

New business:

- Presentation of STARS Report to Faculty Senate: Preview by Chad Carwein
- Proposed Faculty Senate resolution regarding beverage contract renewal

- Proposing items for new buildings or renovations (bicycle-friendly; waterless urinals, dual-flushing toilets, bottle-refilling water fountains, what else?): formalizing the protocol to have the impacts on bike routes by campus construction considered during planning processes