

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: 10/28/2021

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Kerry Sewell, Akshat Kapoor, Alison Swift

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Thompson Forbes, Chad Carwein, Greg Kearney, Bill Koch, David Leese.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: N/A

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Call to order and Approval of Minutes

Discussion: n/a

Action Taken: Call to order at 3:32pm. Motion to approve minutes by Kerry, second by Greg. Pearce reminds committee of invitation is open to take over as chair if someone is willing to lead.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

Agenda Item: New Business

- a. Environmental Health and Safety Website changes

Discussion: Bill Koch seeking feedback on websites. Discussion on where to find indoor air quality, which is found under industrial hygiene. Discussion on a portal for general concerns for a building and where to report a hazard. Wording for a link for students, staff, and faculty to “report a potential hazard or concern” or “report a building concern” discussed. Reviewed incident report forms on website.

Action Taken: Discussion for follow-up

Assigned additional duties to: Bill Koch to look at wording for reporting and will report back to committee.

Agenda Item: Old Business

- a. Committee introductions
- b. Brewster Building study (Bill Koch) and plans for Q&A session (Susan Pearce)
- c. Divestment of university funds from fossil fuels: reports from committee members on readings
- d. No Confetti Campaign: share with your students

Discussion:

- a. Introduction of committee members.

- b. No new news to report on Brewster building. Bill Koch reviews investigation and current information. Will be receiving a report on asbestos by next week, but no health concerns identified. Not expecting surprises from any reports. Aware of recommendation to update HVAC to include automation so there is better monitoring of the HVAC system. Waiting on report from NOISH, but probably will not have until the beginning of the new year. There was evidence of cigarette smoking in one office. There will be an upcoming panel Q & A discussion in November about the Brewster building that will include specialists and someone to address psycho-social needs. Susan Pearce asks questions to be sent ahead to her. Discussion on pancreatic cancer and personal risk factors vs environmental factors (little known). Stigma to likely remain on building even if no evidence.
- c. Committee members were charged to review the divestment resources shared by Chad Carwein. Each member who reviewed a resource shared a report. Findings of reports:
 - a. Endowments should be consistent with mission/values of university or organizations (diverge from current investments, screen new investments). More of a symbolic statement than big impact.
 - b. Members will drop reports of reviews under the Teams folder
 - c. Some universities assigned scores to companies (1-5 with 1 being worse and 5 being best). Rationale given for scores, with best scores being European companies compared to American. Universities were successful if they could show no harm with divestment or if investing in green energy was beneficial.
 - d. All universities that were successful in divestment were cases where student protests at various levels. Usually multi-action (divestment plus no carbon emission goal or climate school).
 - e. Strong student support at ECU but lacks organization. Plan for strategies for campaigns. A fee approach for sustainability was considered for 1 academic year but met with resistance. Divestment harder – must have a re-investment plan.
- d. Confetti campaign – spread the word on not using confetti with the upcoming graduation. Social media campaigns happening.

Action Taken: Discussion on divestment potential. Report to be submitted to Faculty Senate for potentially the December meeting. Report to include Brewster building and raising questions on divestment.

Assigned additional duties to:

1. Members to load reports into Teams folder
 2. Report to Faculty senate – Susan Pearce
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NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2021

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: