

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2021

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

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

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Baker

ACTIONS OF MEETING: Approval of minutes on hold until next meeting.

Congratulations and thanks to Greg for his and his team's hard work on Covid!

AGENDA

- a. Otter Creek site: updates and plans (boundary surveys and marking, trail maintenance; grand opening?)
- b. Confetti concerns: report from December, plans for May
- c. Building health
- d. Recycling: updates
- e. West Research Campus
- f. Brewster courtyard
- g. Student tobacco-use initiative
- h. Natural Areas research:

<https://campusoperations.ecu.edu/sustainability/natural-areas/>

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Otter Creek update

Discussion: The cleaning continues; there is still more to do before it is student-friendly. There are questions about the actual boundaries and how to work with the surrounding property owners. The Engage system may be used to recruit student volunteers when it is time for a work day. Perhaps the "Spring Festival" day could be used as a volunteer day for students. Once it is cleaned up, a grand reopening is in order.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Confetti (continued)

Discussion: Signs were picked up, will be put out again when the season comes. Messages need to be sent with more frequency on social media, even though some people will continue to pollute with confetti and glitter. The issue will be brought up in a technology systems class in the College of Engineering that is now going to be a communications class. Messages should increase after the “Spring Festival” day.

Action Taken: All committee members agree to send out messaging in their departments. Lucas will send out messaging through SGA.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Glass Recycling in Pitt County (the lack of)

Discussion: The County is still waiting to hear if they are getting the grant to put out glass collection dumpsters around the county. This is more of a municipal issue as the campus does not produce a great deal of glass but the committee will still continue to pay attention. The County’s cessation of recycling glass was explained (again). There is a closed group of “dissident glass recyclers” on Facebook; it is easy to join.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: West Research Campus (WRC)

Discussion: Few people are signing up to use the WRC, despite the interest shown on last year’s survey. We will revisit the survey results and generate some PR that can be shared across the University.

Action Taken: Tammy and Susan are gathering the survey results to bring to the committee.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Update on the Tobacco Use Initiative, University Investments, other initiatives

Discussion: The students have put forth the resolution to SGA and are getting help putting this forward to the faculty senate. SGA was asked to help lobby at the Senate.

Someone from the ECU Foundation will be invited to speak with the committee.

Several workdays have been scheduled for the Edible Orchard project and other clean ups like the Town Culvert.

On February 9th Dr. Mick Smyer will be giving a public presentation/activity on how people behave with regard to the environment and climate change, to break the climate silence habit.

A student is conducting a tree inventory, starting on the Health Sciences campus.

The movie "Dark Water" is being shown next week.

Good news- the city got a build grant of \$15.2 million from the Department of Transportation at the federal level for a series of Greenway expansions. It sounds fantastic! It may include a series of information kiosks about stormwater features along the paths.

Action Taken: n/a but please consider attending these events.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Generating interest in sustainability/environmental issues on campus

Discussion: Information will be gathered from last year's survey so we can connect with interested parties and generate activities.

We also discussed the negative effects of the pandemic on the environment.

Action Taken: see above items re: survey results.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Sustainability newsletter, Honors project

Discussion: Please sign up to receive the sustainability newsletter, which has been revived. Please also consider contributing an article.

We have an honors college team called Tellis Medical that is competing in the Pirate Entrepreneurship challenge and they have sourced biodegradable masks. Please vote for them and support them!

Action Taken: Go vote!

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

NEXT MEETING: February 25, 2021

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: tbd

Remaining Meetings for the year:

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