

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: February 25, 2021

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

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

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, Honors students: Heather, Jonathan, Ethan

ACTIONS OF MEETING:

AGENDA

- I. Approval of minutes
- II. New Business for discussion
 - a. Honors student project on edible orchard on campus
- III. Old Business for discussion
 - a. Otter Creek site: update on determining boundaries and cleanup, planning for grand opening
 - b. West Campus use by faculty
 - c. Building health
 - d. Recycling: updates
 - e. Divestment in fossil fuel: plans for visitor for next month's meeting
 - f. Brewster courtyard (still in the dreaming stage!)
- IV. Announcements
 - a. February 26 Research Reboot: Presentations by faculty working on environmental research: <https://water.ecu.edu/reboot/>

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of minutes

Discussion: n/a

Action Taken: Minutes approved.

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Honors student project on edible orchard on campus

Discussion: This is the second year of fundraising for the initiative. The team of students (sans two members) gave a PPTX presentation about the orchard project, designed to help students invest in the environment and for future students to have access to the orchard and enjoy the environment. It is also designed to bring students and faculty together, and to bring positive attention to ECU. The designated plot of land is next to the Carol Belk building, near the Stratford Arms complex, and potential plants include apple, pear, and persimmon trees, and possibly berries. There will also be a pollinator garden. It is also near a Facilities/Grounds building so if assistance is needed, it should be available.

To date, \$2000 has been raised. They need \$5000 to get the orchard going, and the goal is to raise \$10,000.

If there is an overabundance of harvested fruit, it will be donated to local food pantries. Control of deer and drunks was mentioned, as were additional pest management techniques and strategies for orchard maintenance. It was also suggested that they look into partnering with ReLeaf (Robert Malpass), contact John Gill, work with Dr. Hill on a sustainability initiative, and look into growing hardy kiwis.

Kudos to the team and this initiative!

Action Taken: Our student representative, Lucas, who is on the SGA Financial Affairs and Appropriations Committee, will work with the team to find funding for the project. The committee offered to put a resolution to the faculty senate and will await word from the team.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Otter Creek site: update on determining boundaries and cleanup, planning for grand opening

Discussion: The deed for Otter Creek is missing. This may be a good project for the construction management class that does surveying. There is also interest in reaching out to student groups for an OC Cleanup Day/Work Day. It was suggested that Chad reach out to Cindy Putnam Evans, who owns adjacent property, for help with the maps. Issues of signage/safety were discussed.

Action Taken: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: West Research Campus use by faculty

Discussion: Additional information about using West Research Campus has been posted on the Natural Areas web page which is a sub-page of the ECU Sustainability site. There is a form online on which faculty can request use of these areas. Information is still being gathered.

Additionally, the 600 acres of Pocosin wetlands was discussed, and how to raise awareness about all of these areas. Multiple studies being conducted out there were listed and discussed; beehives will not be placed there because of the annual controlled burns.

These areas and their availability will be mentioned in the April sustainability newsletter and on social media. A one-page memo may also be sent to the deans.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Building Health (Brewster)

Discussion: Filing a complaint with OSHA was discussed. At some point, EH&S reviewed the building. The DHS has an air quality group and North Carolina has its own OSHA.

Action Taken: NC-OSHA will be contacted to get more information, and possibly a third/outside party, and this will be shared with the faculty.

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Recycling-Updates

Discussion: The County landfill manager is still optimistic that they will have grant funding to put glass dumpsters at at least some of their county collection centers and March or early April.

The Dissident Glass Recyclers of Pitt County have been taking about 500# per week to Wilson for recycling. There is not enough glass on campus to take action. Honors students are doing a project to collect and recycle e-waste.

Action Taken: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Divestment in fossil fuels (guest speaker coming)

Discussion: Chris Dybba will be presenting to the committee in March or April. It is suggested that committee members research divestment campaigns at other universities to learn more about them and send questions ahead of time for Dybba when he presents to our committee.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: committee members.

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Brewster Courtyard

Discussion: Improvement of the Brewster Courtyard was mentioned to Chancellor Rogers in a meeting; he took notes and will put it on a list of faculty wishes, possibly for a donor.

Action Taken: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: February 26 Research Reboot: Presentations by faculty working on environmental research: <https://water.ecu.edu/reboot/>

Please subscribe to the ECU Sustainability Newsletter! Earth day is coming up and there are going to be a lot of events!

NEXT MEETING: March 25, 2021

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: tbd

Remaining Meetings for the year:

- March 25, 2021
- April 22, 2021