

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: March 25, 2021

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

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

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:

AGENDA

- I. New Business for discussion
 - a. Divestment in fossil fuel: plans for Chris Dyba for next month's meeting.
Possible questions:
 - Do faculty, staff, and students have access to information to discern which investments are in the fossil fuels industries?
 - If not, is there a way that information could be provided?
 - Are you aware of how divestment campaigns work, and what the process might be like?

Note this statement in the following document by the group "Workers of UNC," which includes divestment.

<https://www.anotheruncispossible.org>

Here is the relevant part:

We demand that the BOG take the following actions:

Divest from fossil fuels. \$439 million, or 6.8% of the assets of the UNC Investment Fund are allocated in energy and natural resources, particularly fossil fuels. Those campuses with the largest share of fossil fuel holdings should divest from these holdings immediately and use the proceeds in the post-pandemic transition. For campuses holding endowments that are less than \$100 million, fossil fuel holdings should be sold and the funds reinvested in green energy holdings.

- b. Faculty communiques on environmental news
- c. Engaging with Chancellor Rogers
- d. Resolutions for Faculty Senate?

II. Old Business for discussion

- a. Otter Creek site: update on determining boundaries, marking, planning for grand opening. Workday scheduled for April 20. (John Gill, Chad Carwein)
- b. No Confetti Campaign

Twitter: https://twitter.com/no_confetti_ecu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/No-Confetti-ECU-109227784557642>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/no_confetti_ecu/

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Divestment in Fossil Fuels (in preparation for Dyba's visit)

Discussion: Questions raised: who's making these decisions and how much control does ECU have over where those funds are invested? Also, do these affect our 401Ks? Do we know what's hidden in there in terms of where some of our funds are being invested? Who is scrutinizing/evaluating these investments? Also, about the companies we're investing in-what is their ecological record and future-are they investing in green energy? [is there a good ratings source for evaluating these companies?]

Possible strategies/questions were discussed: Can individuals decide how their pensions are invested? Does ECU set yearly divestment targets?

Action Taken: Discussion included putting this information up on a website along with other green actions ECU is taking, or in a monthly newsletter generated by this committee.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Faculty communiques on environmental news

Discussion: Discussion around putting committee activities up on a website along with other green actions ECU is taking, or in a monthly newsletter generated by this committee.

This could be combined with other campus environmental news (i.e. building health, air quality). One suggestion was to include a general click spot to link with information about building health, FAQ's. An anticipated problem to avoid is having this get treated like a complaint/work order site.

Committee was asked to think about what format the monthly bulletin might take. There was also a question about collaborating with Chad's Sustainability newsletter. This might be a good way to receive suggestions and questions.

Action Taken: Committee will consider publication options.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Engaging with Chancellor Rogers

Discussion: The new Chancellor has made a good first impression and seems interested in listening to faculty. He may attend one of our committee meetings.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Resolutions for Faculty Senate

Discussion: The committee is on top of things and no resolutions came to mind. The Committee looks forward to supporting future Honors projects.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Otter Creek Site

Discussion: There is going to be a public cleanup of the Otter Creek Site on Tuesday, April 20th for Earth Week. The grand opening will wait until next year.

Action Taken: n/a-Chad is on it!

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: No Confetti Campaign and other initiatives.

Discussion: Signs are up. Faculty and honors students are taking this on with a very public campaign. There will be a table for this during Earth Week activities at the Student Center.

Also, the tobacco-free campus initiative is moving forward. Another discussion involved bring animals/puppies to campus.

One idea suggested was to have a map of all the recycling locations/charging stations on campus.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2021

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Susan will send an agenda.

Remaining Meetings for the year:

- April 22, 2021