

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: 9/23/2021

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dean Smith, Chad Carwein, Greg Kearney, Bill Koch

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Puri Martinez, Rachel Baker

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Introduction and Committee Charge

Discussion: Dr. Martinez opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves to the committee. Dr. Martinez walked the committee through the Faculty Senate webpage and the committee webpage, reviewing pertinent documents for review including the committee charge, a guide to voting and reports, and a guide to faculty senate service, and a guide to committees. Dr. Martinez reminded the committee of at least 4 of 7 members are needed for a Quorum, which does not include ex-officio members. Ex-officio members cannot serve as officers but can nominate and vote. Committee documents can be shared via Microsoft Teams. Any changes in revising a document, use track-changes and vote on a track-changed version of the document. In addition, the committee can bring resolutions and reports (at least once a year) to the Faculty Senate. Finally, a reminder of the officers' duties within the committee was reviewed.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

Agenda Item: Officer Elections

Discussion: Dr. Martinez lead the election of officers. Motions were made and seconded for Susan Pearce to as Chair, Tammy Lee as Vice Chair, and Alison Swift as Secretary. There was no opposition, and the motions were passed unanimously. The meeting time on Thursdays at 3:30 and continuing in a hybrid format was not opposed, so this time and format will continue. There was a motion to rename the "Secretary" position to "Scribe" to be mindful of feminist theory perspectives. Discussions were in favor of the change. Motion was passed.

Action Taken: New officers elected, confirmation of meeting time/format, change name of officer position from "Secretary" to "Scribe".

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

Agenda Item: Old Business

1. Continue conversation with Chris Dyba, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, on more concrete action plans regarding divestment, if possible, including a possible Faculty Senate resolution.
2. Continue working toward the goal of opening the Otter Creek site to faculty and student use and promoting its potential uses.
3. Continue plan for more easily accessible communiques to the campus community about sustainability, including recycling, building health, etc.
Related: Consider the Brewster A health concerns investigation and ways the committee can be of aid in that process and in conveying information to faculty
4. Continue plans to reduce littering and safety concerns associated with graduation confetti
5. Consider issue of leaf blowers on campus

Discussion:

1. Discussion continued on divestment from fossil fuels or companies that are involved in the fossil fuel industry and possibly inviting Chris Dyba to speak with committee in October. Suggestions were made to propose suggestions before invitation. Discussion on ECU fiscal structure with endowments and other university divestment strategies. Discussed possibly drafting a memo related to committees recommendations about divestments.
2. Chad updated committee on efforts at Otter Creek. Monthly trail maintenance days begin in Spring 2021, and have continued starting in August. Other monthly trail maintenance days scheduled for October and November, with a possibility of a “kick-off” in the Spring semester. Additionally, Chad reported a natural spring was found during the trail maintenance.
3. Discussion on easily accessible communiques, including Website reworking and rewording. Susan made a suggestion to increase numbers on list serve, which includes a newsletter. Discussions of a faculty survey on needs related to environmental issues and to include communication on natural areas, bees, or tree-trails. Tik-Tok and other social media campaigns discussed, including a Tik-Tok video or a social media take-over to include students posting information on the walking trails.
 - a. Related: Bill Koch gave an update on the health concerns investigation in Brewster A including agencies involved in the process (NCDHHS, NIOSH, NC Cancer Registry), which are pending reports, but expecting some recommendations.
4. Confetti still being used around Flanagan and the fountain despite signs and other campaigns to prevent use of confetti.
5. Concerns of use of leaf blowers vs rakes brought to committee from Dr. Martinez, which is an annual recurring concern during the fall. Follow-up question from Kerry regarding updates to campus composting.

Action Taken:

1. Chad to help pull information and materials related to divestments. Will revisit at next meeting.
2. n/a
3. Chad to follow-up on the potential for a social media take-over.
4. Will revisit confetti issue at next meeting.
5. Will revisit at October meeting. Chad to share past information and communication on this resolution.

Assigned additional duties to:

1. Chad to gather information/materials on divestments.
 2. n/a
 3. Chad to follow-up on the possibility for a social media take-over.
 4. n/a
 5. Chad to share past information/communication to committee.
-

NEXT MEETING: October 28, 2021

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Continue discussion on divestments, confetti use, and leaf blowers. Follow up on social media-take over and campus composting.