

**COMMITTEE:** University Environment Committee

**MEETING DATE:** November 17, 2023

**PERSON PRESIDING:** Kerry Sewell

**REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Akshat Kapoor, Marc Petersen, Alison Swift, Susan Pearce, William Hill

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** James Loudon, Joshua Gardner, Dean Smith, Greg Kearney, Bill Koch, Tyler West, Chad Carwein

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ACTIONS OF MEETING:

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Discussion of results from Qualtrics evaluation of Annual Goals to keep, followed by formal vote
  - a. Formation of subcommittees to work on appropriate, retained goals
- III. Announcements/other topics
  - a. Any potential role of UEC in addressing issues related to racial slurs written on various surfaces across campus
- IV. Adjourn

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Discussion of results from Qualtrics evaluation of Annual Goals to keep, followed by formal vote

- i. continue to collaborate with university administration regarding building health issues, in particular thinking about Brewster, Bill can give a NIOSH update
- ii. continuing conversation with ECU administration regarding future measure towards an environmentally stainable campus
- iii. continue working toward publicizing the potential use of Otter Creek
- iv. continue to plan for more easily accessible communiques to the campus community
- v. continue plans to reduce littering and concerns with graduation

Discussion: Following the distribution of a Qualtrics survey eliciting feedback on the potential goals, crafted and distributed by Vice Chair Marc Petersen, the committee discussed the results. The goals listed in the Qualtrics survey were:

- i. Investigate mapping sustainability initiatives and groups across campus to facilitate internal and external discovery and networking
- ii. Work towards designation of courses with sustainability content or focus, including coordination with other committees
- iii. continue to collaborate with university administration regarding building health issues, in particular thinking about Brewster
- iv. continuing conversation with ECU administration regarding future measures towards an environmentally sustainable campus
- v. continue working toward publicizing the potential use of Otter Creek
- vi. continue to plan for more easily accessible communiques to the campus community
- vii. continue plans to reduce littering and concerns with graduation

Sewell discussed the results of Qualtrics survey that asked committee members about the annual goals and introduced Marc Petersen, who gave the teller's report of the survey. There were eight respondents. Generally speaking, the majority voted yes on all items proposed for the annual goals with the exception of the last item, which was still generally positive. The consensus was that most of the committee would like to continue focusing on the previous goals already established by the committee. Sewell discussed the possibility of dropping one of the goals and opened the floor for discussion on potentially removing the carry over item, which was to continue to plan for more easily accessible communique to the campus community.

Out of the six goals, Sewell's concern is that making progress on all six goals for the remainder of the year may not be possible and asked for feedback from the committee which goals should be the most prioritized (in regards to being achievable this year).

Petersen pointed out that item number two of the survey (the designation of courses for sustainability focus/content) was an overwhelming yes, and the other item of the survey that did not receive any "no" votes (not named) were the two "winners" of the survey in regards to being the items to focus on most.

Swift suggested using the top two with majority "yes" as what should be the focus for goals to be achieved.

West asked if there had been any new development on the Brewster Building study. Koch said he believes the committee needs to bring that to some type of closure and that there has been no connection found between the cancer cases and the Brewster Building. Getting the NIOSH report is important for the committee. Pearce reinforced the overwhelming concern from people in the Brewster Building. Sewell said that in hearing from this discussion that it is important to continue this as a goal for the committee (communicating the report from NIOSH), as well as the Otter Creek

communication item and suggested folding these two items together as one goal. Petersen made the motion that the two aforementioned goals be folded together to one singular goal. Motion seconded by Swift and Loudon.

Sewell brought up one last goal of mapping sustainability issues and initiatives of groups across campus and invited discussion for removal. Carwein made motion to remove. Motion seconded by Petersen.

At this time, Sewell presented the four concrete goals decided upon by the committee members' discussion and initiated a formal vote for these to be the four goals of the committee for the year.

All committee members voted AYE, no NAY. Motion approved.

Action Taken: The committee voted to carry forward some of the previous year's goals, with amendments. The committee also adopted the additional goal of investigating Sustainability Course Designation. The goals retained for the remainder of the year were:

- i. Work towards designation of courses with sustainability content or focus, including coordination with other committees
- ii. Continuing conversation with ECU administration regarding future measures towards an environmentally sustainable campus
- iii. Continue to collaborate with university administration regarding building health issues, notably the Brewster A-Wing
- iv. Continue to plan for more easily accessible communiques to the campus community, including potential use of Otter Creek

Assigned additional duties to: Three subcommittees were formed to address three of the goals:

- i. Course designation for sustainability-focused courses: Marc Petersen, Chad Carwein, Alison Swift, William Hill, Kerry Sewell
- ii. Environmental sustainability measures at ECU: Susan Pearce, Akshat Kapoor, Chad Carwein
- iii. Brewster Building communications: Greg Kearney, Bill Koch

Sewell said that Rachel Baker suggested the committee invite Purificación Martínez to speak to the committee on course designation given her previous experience not only as Faculty Senate Chair, but also for her service on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Martínez communicated that she is willing.

Agenda Item: Discussion of any potential role for the University Environment Committee in addressing issues related to racial slurs written on various surfaces across campus.

Discussion: Pearce discussed the potential for University Environment Committee input into addressing the racial slurs being written on various surfaces on ECU's campus. The committee discussed the other Faculty Senate committees that have charges that allow those committees to more effectively address issues related to human behaviors— notably problematic behaviors—on campus. The committee agreed that the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is best-placed to address issues related to racism.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Carwein discussed the following items:

There is a new hire of Sammy Snead as the University Energy Manager.

A consulting firm is being hired to do energy consumption audits on buildings across campus.

Approval has been to move forward with reclassifying a facilities position on main campus as sustainability outreach specialist.

Motion to adjourn meeting, Petersen; seconded, Pearce. All AYE. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: January 26, 2023