

**COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee**

**MEETING DATE:** January 20, 2022

**PERSON PRESIDING:** Susan Pearce

**REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Susan Pearce, Kerry Sewell, Alison Swift, Lisa Beth Robinson, Akshat Kapoor

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Chad Carwein, Bill Koch, David Leeser, Dean Smith, Tim Christensen, Gregory Kearney

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Rachel Baker

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**ACTIONS OF MEETING**

Agenda Item: Call to order and Approval of Minutes

Discussion: n/a

Action Taken: Call to order at 3:35pm. Brief introductions of members. Motion to approve minutes by Tim, second by Lisa Beth. Minutes approved.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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Agenda Item: New Business

- a. Report from Chad Carwein
- b. Solar for ECU
- c. Committee priorities for the semester

Discussion:

- a. Chad updates committee on Otter Creek natural area. Grand re-opening April 21 at 2pm on Earth Day. Will try to arrange buses for transport for the grand re-opening. Possibility of a virtual tour of the trail. UEC may play a role in the grand re-opening. May partner with an environmental group (Environmental Droners) to pick up litter on roadsides. Earth week planning – a meeting will be on February 4 and will meet with other groups on campus. Senior capstone projects include an update to the bicycle and pedestrian plan, help with sustainability related agendas, and working with a PhD student. Report on students who organized a small protest on campus related to the cryptomining agency potentially being approved for Greenville. Chad was there only as a concerned citizen using personal time off. Cryptomining uses a lot of energy (more than large industries) and create a very loud humming. Few jobs and loud and dangerous conditions. Profit would go back to consumer to lower costs; however, it is really only a \$6 savings per person with Greenville Utilities. Greenville Utilities is clearing trees in the area so they maybe planning and working on this initiative already.
- b. Discussions for solar power at ECU. Greenville isn't really set up for solar at the moment, so doesn't seem to be high on priority list. Chad has previously pushed for this with no headway. However, potential for this to be a recruitment tool and other students/departments getting hands on experience (design, tech skills, etc). Could put rooftop solar on 20 buildings for about \$4 million, but really need several large solar farms to impact energy reduction. Greg suggests looking into higher level support

(using executive order, and other potentials house bills). Suggests members to review executive order 246. Greg suggests a building energy audit to find problem buildings and start there. ECU has not had an energy manager in a while. Students used to help with this in the past as a part of senior projects. Discussions if we should ask chancellor to talk to committee about level of commitment, talk to Faculty Senate, or with new Provost. Kerry mentions costs of switching to solar or hybrid model. Costs installing vs cost savings. Chad to share a recent solar proposal. Dean to reach out to App State on their solar panels. ECU often not eligible for renewable energy programs. Greg suggests thinking of possible grant opportunities for upgrades related to public infrastructure.

- c. Priorities include solar and link to this with divestment. Continue to think about what we might focus on.

Action Taken: N/A

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

a. Chad to email information about cryptocurrency.

b. Chad to email information related to solar power proposal from West Campus.

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Agenda Item: Old Business

- a. Brewster Faculty Senate Report
- b. Divestment

Discussion:

a. Bill reports still waiting on NIOSH. No information related to cases (medical).

b. Chad reports student groups seem interested in divestment. A non-profit organization aimed at helping students with climate action on campus has reached out to students about talking with them about divestments. Students seem interested, but not sure if they realize the commitment. Reiterates the need for a reinvestment plan with divestment.

c. Discussion on student groups to speak and update us on projects.

d. Discussion on tobacco/smoking initiatives. \$25 fine for smoking. Discussion of a statement from committee. Maybe good for faculty senate to address.

Action Taken: N/A

Assigned additional duties to:

a. n/a

b. Chat to see if non-profit group could talk to committee.

c. Susan to follow up on wording of statement or other penalties related to smoking, or potential to increase \$25 fine.

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Agenda Item: Announcements

a. Film Series

b. Adjournment 4:33pm

Discussion:

a. Reminder of sustainability film series. Please encourage students to attend.

Action Taken:

- a. N/A
- b. Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg. Adjourned at 4:33pm.

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

**NEXT MEETING:** February 24, 2022

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**