

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: October 24, 2022

PERSON PRESIDING: Faculty Chair Ticknor, Kerry Sewell

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Akshat Kapoor, Marc Petersen, Lisa Beth Robinson, Alison Swift

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Koch, Tim Christensen, Greg Kearney, Chad Carwein, Joshua Gardner, James Loudon, Tyler West (?)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Baker, Faculty Chair Ticknor

ACTIONS OF MEETING: Faculty Chair Ticknor

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Faculty Chair Ticknor reads the charge.
 - III. New Business for discussion
 - IV. Announcements
 - V. Adjourn
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ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Review the proposed order of business suggested at the end of last year:

- 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: Although at one point last year a newsletter was discussed, the committee decided instead to work on making EH&S pages more visible and include data (i.e. about air quality in campus buildings) that is easily accessible to the public on the Web. ReLeaf (student and community) was discussed for a possible point of focus of the UEC, and it was decided to have someone from the organization to our committee,

particularly in regard to heritage trees. There was also conversation about the extension of the Greenway and opening up of walking paths. There has been trees planted that uptake the petroleum that is being leaked from the underground tank that used to be over by Sup Dogs. It's following the groundwater path going into the Town Creek Culvert and straight into the Tar River.

It was asked if the committee would be willing to discuss more about pollinator friendly plantings and how that might potentially play out for the future of the university, and the committee affirmed this. Activities of the ECU Sustainability Club were presented and a discussion regarding walking the Tree Trail with an eye on best stormwater management practices and more pollinator-friendly planting. The UEC members were enthusiastic about a walking meeting.

Last spring's Grand Reopening of Otter Creek was successful, and Chad is looking for additional students to volunteer for trail cleanup; please notify your students. More cleanup needs to occur before the park can be fully opened to the public. Bill noted that this has been brought to attention of the Security and Safety Committee (required by SACS). A similar conversation is happening about opening up West Research Campus. There needs to be further discussion about gates and park hours. It is still desirable to have both places for outdoor classroom sessions. Committee members discussed various methods of relaying this information to students and other community organizations such as the County Extension office and the Sierra Club.

Chad will continue to notify the committee about Sustainability events on campus.

Bill Koch presented a NIOSH update: ECU completed the building assessment of Brewster, involving some outside consultants. We had DHS staff down here who specialize in indoor air quality and public health as well as their occupational medicine person. ECU has done as much as we could but another part of this too was in requesting National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) from the CDC to come down or get involved, to help us assist us in some way in evaluating the building. We provided a lot of information to NIOSH; they have a certified industrial hygienist who does this—this is his area of expertise, and this is what he does within NIOSH, sharing a lot of information from the building. They were sent all of the information ECU had gathered, including drawings of the building. When DHS was down here one of the key pieces they did was assess the HVAC system see how it was running so we've shared all that information with NIOSH and we've been waiting to get a report for some time. There has been a statement from the certified industrial hygienist at the end of March, and after contacting NIOSH again in July, no additional information was available. They are backed up because of Covid. The last piece of information we are waiting for is the assessment from the cancer cases [in Brewster]. Asbestos and pancreatic cancer were discussed. EH&S continues to prioritize this health hazard evaluation. Their management supports them in that we apologize for the delays; thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Election of 2022-2023 Officers

Discussion: William Hill may be the next Chair, Lisa Beth Robinson the Secretary. Kerry Sewell will be vice chair and run elections next meeting.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: Kerry was asked to run elections at the next meeting.

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Meeting online or in person.

Discussion: It was decided by the committee to have hybrid meetings, taking place both online and in the Faculty Senate meeting room.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

NEXT MEETING: October 27, 2022