

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: January 26, 2023

PERSON PRESIDING: Kerry Sewell

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

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Puri Martinez, Rachel Baker, Phillip Lewis

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ACTIONS OF MEETING: Approval of Minutes

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#### AGENDA

1. Call to order
  2. Approval of minutes from October and November meetings
  3. Conversation with Dr. Martinez about the processes for new course designations, along with the other committees involved in the process
  4. Updates from subcommittees:
    - a. Brewster Building
    - b. Promoting renewable energy and divestment initiatives
  5. Adjourn
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#### ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of minutes for October, November 2021

Action Taken: Minutes approved.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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#### ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Presentation from Dr. Purificación Martínez regarding the various processes involved in getting a new course designation and information about what other committees would potentially be involved in this process. NOTE: long notes (dictation) are available from this meeting.

### Discussion:

- The process for establishing a new course designation with the sub question about Dr. Martinez' knowledge regarding the other committees that would need to be involved in this with service learning and also with the creation of the global and domestic diversity designations that exist.
- To create these designations you should contact and be in contact with the committee on committees to let them know about the fact that you need you intend to create this designation and of course with the chair of the of the faculty Anne Ticknor.
- If you are going to create a designation you are going to have to create student learning outcomes for that particular designation, you are going to have to create a form to receive proposals, you are going to have to have a committee that evaluates those forms, and presents approval of the particular courses to the to the Faculty Senate.
- Committees bringing designations forward: the global diversity and domestic diversity was addressed by the general education committee
- The Service Learning Committee's service learning designation was done by Admissions and Retention and then later on the SLC was created; it had never come through the Committee on Committees
- Global and Domestic Diversity became part of the responsibilities of the General Education Committee
- University Environment Committee would be fully capable of vetting course proposals to meet this [Sustainability] designation especially if we go through the process of establishing a course designation. It would give the UEC a little bit more authority or involvement directly in incorporating sustainability into the curriculum, which is a university goal under our sustainability plan
- There's another designation that is in the works which is the Research Intensive designation, and they have they have gone over to GenEd; GenEd can have a a kind of global overview about degree requirements
- Maybe the chair faculty will have to determine what is the best route
- If we are looking at a committee that really understands the impact of everything that we are doing with the students, it is the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- the Chair of the Faculty can guide you in what the process for making sure that everybody in the Senate is informed
- If there is a way that we can have access to the learning outcomes from Global and Domestic Diversity as well as service learning -- moving forward in terms of applying sustainability to learning outcomes that would be really beneficial
- It is suggested to put proposals into Curriculog so they can be accessed and tracked.
- We may wish to get in touch with the chair of the Writing Intensive Committee and with the chair of Service Learning and with the chair of General Education and of Research because they are working together in adopting curriculum; you should not start creating a form that you cannot easily adapt later on to curriculum
- We've got at least three people that may be serving their last terms so we also may need to factor in who's going to be involved in it and if we want to wait until we get maybe some new people that that might have some more availability to contribute so but that's all for you know the committee as a whole to decide
- Thank you to everybody who is serving on that subcommittee for taking on the many next steps that are involved in that type of movement towards the designation

Action Taken:

Assigned additional duties to:

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: New QEP

Discussion:

- Dr. Martínez presents the new QEP, discusses how it might intersect with the UEC activities, particularly regarding course designations (i.e. writing intensive, service learning, sustainability)
- If we do frame this correctly it is possible that service learning courses will also be one part of the intercultural competence, working in high impact practices like community engaged learning. Intercultural competence has to do with sustainability of the world, so if we think about these in a long, long ambitious way we might end it up with being able to create a committee that deals with intercultural competence designations with particular added focus or emphasis
- Folders have been created in teams for the UEC to review other designations' rubrics

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Buildings Update from Phil Lewis

Discussion:

- No building related health concerns have been identified but we're still waiting for the final NIOSH report and I [PL] spoke to them on January the 4th and they said they were finishing the final report but it does have to go through an administrative review before they can release it so they gave no estimated time of completion but they are making progress
- We do have updates up on our website. We are working with Greg and some others to better communicate that information to faculty and campus community and certainly when we get the final NIOSH report we'll do a some type of closure uh on this whatever it may be.
- You may be aware of those projects over the holidays to upgrade the building automation system for Brewster A-wing and the purpose of that was just to provide a better system control remote mode on a stream remote operation and then also the reduce energy consumption so most of that work was completed over the holidays.
- Another item I know that our office recently responded to a concern regarding a replacement of filters in the water fountains in the in the A-wing. I think there was some concern that they were not being replaced so we did confirm with facilities that the filters are being replaced and to follow up on that, we conducted some water sampling in the

A-wing and we sample both filtered and non-filtered sources and the results were virtually identical with the exception of chlorine, and that's that there was no chlorine in the filtered water sources.

-It has to go through a very rigorous filtration and chemical treatment process to satisfy regulatory requirements. They also issue an annual water quality report that is available on their website so I'll certainly encourage you to visit that site.

-Susan presented to the Graduate School leadership executive leadership team yesterday about the green office program and by the time they got done with the presentation [the team] had some concerns about energy use in the building because they have been taken off of the central steam line and been outfitted with window units from campus living. She is scheduling a walkthrough with facilities folks to look at issues in the building as far as energy and thermal comfort, however, they expressed a lot of concerns to [Susan] about mold and about water moisture issues. They even made mention of an employee who has been approved by the university to work remotely full time because that individual was experiencing allergic reactions that that person does not experience outside of Ragsdale.

- Any indoor air quality concerns request if they can just send something through safety at ecu.edu

- Is it possible to add that to the epidemiology study? Susan raised that on the on the faculty Senate floor as well the other day. In regards to the NIOSH report, that will be included in the at least their preliminary report or initial report.

- There have been two meetings and we talked about how to open up communication and keep transparency on this issue throughout.

- The UEC also discussed developing a survey to get folks input and comments and really enhance components of the website to get to give people more information about cancer clusters and some more specifics on information and resources that they could that they could use. It would be easily accessible rather than having them to go to different places to try to find this information; we didn't want to put that out there right now because we were afraid it might throw people into a panic.

- We were we were going to kind of wait and see what the report says and then try to time that just right so we can get things out in a timely manner. Most safety folks are technically driven, so we may have all the information and data but sometimes pushing that out in a manner that it that is understandable to the audience might be a challenge for us so we're going to rely on you guys to provide us some guidance on what type of information and in what format works best.

- Question for Phil: is it the Qualtrics survey online on indoor air quality where people list symptoms, discomforts, what time of day where their discomfort is, is that what you're talking about? It'll eventually get to that; if there are any initial inquiries, push them through that safety e-mail account, just the e-mail: safety at ecu.edu, and then we'll do a preliminary evaluation and then probably jump to that next step based on our initial findings.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Promoting renewable energy and divestment initiatives

Discussion:

- Where we're at is trying to figure out what's the best game plan in terms of how we would like to get faculty Senate support, Staff Senate support, and Student Government Association support on the document. The document addresses encouraging the University to divest from fossil fuel companies but also to invest in renewable energy on campus and to try and work with GUC more closely to increase adoption of renewable energy for ECU.
- The Chancellor is at least notified that a vote was taking taken and this document has already gone in front of the Chancellor. His focus was more on the divestment arguments than the investment in renewable energy on campus.
- There is a concern that the whole piece of encouraging adoption of renewable energy on campus was overlooked and if it just appears on his [the Chancellor's] desk again he's going to be like, "I've already read this you know, what do I do, what is expected of me at this point," so we need to meet again in the next week or two to sort of re-strategize.
- Chad is also meeting with our SGA representative, the SGA speaker Tyler W, after a strategic plan update meeting with the advisory committee and [they] are going to brainstorm and potentially start drafting legislation from SGA to encourage the administration to include sustainability at a high level in the strategic plan update.
- The question is whether we want to make resolutions, or maybe Rachel can help us, or can there be a statement about what kind of document could we try to pass through these three bodies. In terms of what we can present to Senate, it could be a resolution, or it could be a report with a recommendation. Sometimes committees will do that where they summarize the pertinent information, their reasoning for a recommendation that they're making, and so they're asking Senate basically for endorsement of their recommendation and approval of that.
- We have plans within this subcommittee to submit a proposal for the College of Engineering to do a capstone project on evaluating the potential for solar energy to be installed both on rooftops across campus and parking lots.

Action Taken: Subcommittee will continue its good work.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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## ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Possible partnerships with the Water Resource Center

Discussion:

- Chad had a meeting with Stephen Morrissey at the Water Resource Center. They have many projects going on and they're looking for collaborations. If this [designation] is something that could involve them as well, such as if our proposals for sustainability are related to water, like water runoff or whatever, they could also be a partner.

Action Taken: n/a

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2023