



COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY

MEETING DATE: Monday, November 7, 2022, 2:00-4:00pm via Zoom

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APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Ryan Smith, Sara McDaniel (secretary), Jason Daniels (Chair), Paul Wingco

Guests: Mark Robinson, Carol Trost, Sarah Nielsen

Members Absent: Daisy Muralles, Talya Kemper

 Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Land Acknowledgment for Cal State East Bay_Public

Short Version:  Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Land Acknowledgment for Cal State University East Bay Hayward 2-4-20...

1. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Sara McDaniel motioned to approve; Jason Daniels seconded
2. Approval of [10/24/22](#) minutes
 - a. Ryan Smith motioned to approve; Jason Daniels seconded
3. **Reports:**
 - a. Report of the Chair
 - i. Moved to discussion; start with Paul's update.
 - b. Report of the SULO
 - i. Moved to discussion; start with Paul's update.
 - c. Report of the Presidential Appointee
 - d. Report from Director of Sustainability
 - i. Last week, the Campus Sustainability Committee met for the last time this semester. We talked about the STARS report, and a symposium I attended in San Diego two weeks ago. Based on the latest version of the CSU sustainability policy, STARS will be what every campus is working on. Ours expired in April 2022, so we need to initiate a new report. It's a lot of effort; data-gathering, etc. from all areas of campus and takes anywhere from six months to one year to accomplish. This committee is ready to help out with the academics piece. Our last score was a bronze— since then, with the projects that we've accomplished since, we hope to score higher. STARS as a process should be launched this spring, and we'll be sure to update the committee.
 - ii. The CSU has announced that they are about to post a position (Research Grants Administrator) that will focus on finding and administering sustainability-focused grant opportunities. This is the first time that the Chancellor's office has initiated a position like this. We'll see when that position is filled and be reached out to once there is someone ready to work with campuses.

- iii. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo reported working with the College Corps, particularly with the Climate Action College Corps (a subprogram of that initiative). We have talked about re-establishing the campus sustainability student internship program, so this is one possible way to bring that program back? We will need to reach out to the other campuses who reported that their College Corps students are doing campus sustainability work (Carol reported that this was not possible per her understanding of the program service requirements).
 - 1. Carol: We (at CSUEB) are participating in the College Corps. It's a two year program, we are in year 1. Food Insecurity, K-12 Education, and Climate Action are the three focus areas. We have 50 students who receive a 7,000 living allowance + 3,000 at the end of the year. Students who participate need to do 450 program hours per academic year. Kathy Cutting is helping two of these students get involved in landscape projects at the Concord campus. These students need to be working in the community/with community partners and not with the university itself.
- iv. My position expires at the end of this calendar year, so we will update you once there is a plan in place for this. We tried two hiring cycles, and didn't get an applicant so administrators took the position down and are reevaluating our recruitment and hiring process to get higher quality candidates.
 - 1. Ryan: Would this be something that the Chancellor's office would like help with from our committee?
 - a. Paul: The Chancellor's Office is working on this internally– we are not the only campus struggling with this. For example, Sonoma State University has been struggling with filling this position even longer than we have. We did get the committee's feedback at the time of the initial position creation. Some colleges and universities have decoupled the social impact and operational sustainability responsibilities in order to attract more applicants, as they are often more interested in the social impact work than the operational side. Even the DEI position is open, so overall, it's a competitive job market for those types of positions and we are up against a lot of competition.
 - 2. Jason: I also offered our committee's help with this at last week's Campus Sustainability Meeting, along with reiterating the importance we as a committee are placing on reviving the student intern program. Do you have a sense of when they will repost this job? Will the STARS reporting depend on who takes over your position?
 - a. The Coordinator position is still posted, but I have no update as to when the Director position will be reposted. STARS reporting will need to be ongoing and should not be dependent on who takes over as Interim Director. We should leave this on the meetings as an ongoing agenda item.

4. Business:

- a. Lecturer Nominee - Vacant Position on Committee
 - i. Remains vacant
- b. At-large Nominee - Vacant Position on Committee
 - i. Remains vacant

5. Discussion:

- a. Community Engagement / Organizing Project Opportunity in East Contra Costa County

- i. Ryan Smith: I spoke with Linda Dobb and she was very receptive; she came to me with several opportunities. First, she wrote the internship program into a grant she is submitting for funding. We don't know if she'll get this grant, but we will keep you posted. Secondly, "[Sustainable Contra Costa](#)" is interested in CSUEB getting involved in their Community Engagement projects. Apparently we did this in the past at the Concord Campus. They are hosting a "Sustainable Enterprise" Conference in the Spring; perhaps our students would be able to partner with industries/internships and earn summer internships or something along those lines. Electric cars, microgrids, K-12 youth— there are many topics that might be interesting to students. I will gather info and determine how they imagine CSUEB would get involved. They may want to use our facilities which I would be supportive of as those buildings are underutilized. Thirdly, Linda sent out a job posting for a current or former sustainability student— how do we disseminate this information?
 1. Jason: If they are interested in coming to our meeting on the 28th, we have a number of guests attending that meeting and they'd be welcome to come as well to talk to us about this.
 - ii. Carol: I have a master list of all current and former Sustainability Ambassadors that I sent out Linda's job posting.
- b. Revisiting last meeting's discussion of GE Sustainability/Carbon Neutrality Requirement
- i. Jason: [Recap last meeting's discussion]. Thank you Ryan for sharing your thoughts via email in advance of that meeting; I think we are on the same page about whether moving through GEOC for a mandatory GE requirement would really be worth the fight/ultimately be successful? Sarah, do you know what the language change would look like for making modifications to course learning outcomes in order to make them comply with the overlay requirements? Perhaps to be more clear about carbon neutrality? This could get us closer to this goal but will potentially be easier and better received. This came originally from Jillian, but I am not sure if we as a committee are able to move forward with that exact plan; perhaps this modified plan.
 - ii. Sarah: I will help find the guidance on changing overlay and learning outcome criteria.
 - iii. Paul: This came originally from the Climate Action Plan, not STARS (I will double check this).
 - iv. Ryan: If this is our own criteria, not a national plan or guidance, I am interpreting this as having flexibility in how we proceed. One way to do this is to add course requirements; the other pathway is to modify this existing overlay to emphasize more clearly the carbon neutrality component. I guess what I am trying to say is that there's some subjectivity here with what satisfies this goal.
 1. Jason: Current language for Sustainability Overlay:
 - a. identify the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability, either in general or in relation to a specific problem;
 - b. analyze interactions between human activities and natural systems;
 - c. describe key threats to environmental sustainability; and
 - d. explain how individual and societal choices affect prospects for sustainability at the local, regional, and/or global levels.
 2. Ryan: See, the wording is really close, we just need to make more clear the connection. The challenge will be evaluating how this comes through in each course.

3. Jason: This is actually a huge point of contention among GEOC committee members; the subjectivity of it all. We are in the middle of 160 upper-level humanities recertifications, but the process is very much open to interpretation and it is a known challenge. Rewriting the overlay language would be a big challenge but it might make it easier for those making proposals. These could go to CIC? Or GEOC? Sarah, as chair of CIC do you think this is a good time for this conversation?
 - a. Sarah: I think now is a good time to discuss it, and there's some momentum behind this at CIC and here on this committee. I don't know what the overall feeling or response will be but the time seems right for the discussion.
- c. Planning for Earth Week (22 April 2023)
 - i. Last Year [2022](#):
 1. https://www.csueastbay.edu/sustainability/files/docs/copy-of-earthweek2022_calendar_final.pdf
 2. Previous Years: [2021](#), [2020](#), [2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#)
 - ii. 2023
 1. Faculty Learning Workshop on Sustainability Overlay
 2. Sharon Radcliff (SULO) Presentation
 3. GE Minor/Sustainability Overlay Presentation
 - a. GE Minor
 - i. https://www.csueastbay.edu/history/files/images/gem-s_organizational_chart.pdf
 - ii. https://www.csueastbay.edu/history/files/images/gem-s_overview.pdf
 - b. Sustainability Overlay
 - i. <https://catalog.csueastbay.edu/content.php?catoid=31&navoid=26736>
- d. STARS Report
 - i. Committee responsibilities?
 1. Planning for data collection
<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/california-state-university-east-bay-ca/report/2019-04-19/>
- e. Outline for November 28, 2022 meeting
 - i. Carol will be discussing her experience with/history of the Sustainability internship program
 - ii. Sharon is presenting on her FCW and potential Earth Week ideas
 - iii. Kathy Cutting from Concord campus is going to be joining to talk about guerilla farming and the California College Corps
 - iv. Ryan is inviting those from Sustainable Contra Costa
 - v. If the committee members could please look over Agenda Item 5b (Earth Week Calendar) that would be really helpful for our discussion at the next meeting.
 - vi. Look over the current sustainability overlay language and brainstorm any ways to make climate change/carbon neutrality more clear there.
- f. Questions and Comments
 - i. Ryan: I have a rough draft brainstorm for a 5th bullet point for the sustainability overlay language change:
 1. , “with emphasis on climate change” added to first point

2. 5th point: “Explain the science of climate change and discuss specific strategies for mitigating climate crises via efforts toward carbon neutrality at the individual, institute, and global scales.”
 - a. This feels like it’s still in-reach for courses that touch on other aspects of sustainability. The mechanisms could change but the topic is there, presented as a part of the bigger sustainability picture. Language changes here feel like low-hanging fruit and we can really make it more clear and direct here.
 - b. Paul: Please look up the book *Under the Sky We Make* by Kimberly Nicholas as a way to simplify the explanation of climate change in 5 focus areas 1. It’s warming 2. It’s us 3. We are sure of it 4. It’s bad 5. We can fix it

6. Adjournment

- a. Ryan Smith motioned to adjourn; Sara McDaniel seconded