

## **President's Commission on sustainability meeting on October 27, 2023**

Present: Chair Kovacs, Commissioners: Mary Jane Fallot, Chris Grant, Kate Greenwald, Alistair Halton, Kasim Korkmaz, Sean McCormick, Dieter Otto, Sara Reder, Ronald Rich, Beth Smith, Mike Valdes, Aurelia Wade, Anke Wolbert, Luke Yates, Guests: Estelle Hackos (Undergraduate Student Government), Meghan Riesterer (Centrio), Darrel Tremaine (Centrio), Felicity Nworgu (Dining)

1. Approval of meeting minutes: Approved 10-0-0 Commissioners Fallot, McCormick, and Korkmaz were not present for the vote

2. Introduction of our new Commission representatives

New members include Alistair Halton, Sean McCormick, and Sara Reder

3. Introduction of Centrio Energy representatives

Darrel Tremaine (Senior Engineer) and Meghan Riesterer (Chief Sustainability officer senior vice president of sustainability) involved with STARS at Oberlin

4. Chairperson report:

Summary of the Powerpoint entitled, "STARS score improvements" (see appendix). Criteria selected for improvement prior to our next STARS report next academic year was guided by what is perceived to be doable in a two-year period and that will raise our STARS score to the middle of the Silver Certification. The presentation included goals, point improvement, action items, and suggested point people. STARS is soon to release the next version of STARS, which may alter these prior to our report, but the current report is our best guide at this point.

5. Individual reports:

AC1 Academic Programs: Commissioner Wolbert is willing to be the point person on this criterion

AC2 Learning Outcomes: Commissioner Wolbert is willing to work with chair Kovacs on this criterion. Commissioner Smith asked if Learning Beyond the Classroom would count. The STARS technical document measures the number of people that are specifically subject to the learning outcome at some point prior to graduation so if the learning outcome was applied to all of LBC then every student that graduated at EMU would count, but if the learning outcome applied to a single event then only those students at that event would count.

AC6 Sustainability Literacy Assessment: Chair Kovacs will be the point person on this criterion and work with the Provost's office to institute a literacy assessment.

AC9 Research and Scholarship: Commissioner Wolbert is willing to be the point person on this criterion and work with Chair Kovacs.

AC10 Support for Sustainability Research: Chair Kovacs will be the point person on this criterion and work with the Associate Provost and Assistant Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research, currently Steve Pernecky to see if sustainability could be included as a measurement for USRP and internal faculty awards

EN1 Student Educators program: Commissioner Greenwald is willing to discuss this with the Sierra Club, Commissioner Reder has some experience with an eligible student educator program and offered EagleSync as a way to record participants easily. Commissioner Wade will also consider how to count the education programs she is involved in with dining.

EN2 Student Orientation: Commissioners Grant, Smith, and Rich were willing to continue to consider how to provide programming for student orientation. Commissioner Rich stated that the materials created for orientation were not used because of formatting incompatibilities. He hopes to correct this in the future.

EN5 Outreach Campaign: Commissioner Greenwald will discuss this with the Sierra Club and is willing to be the point person on this criterion. Commissioners Smith and Wade will consider adjusting their outreach campaigns to measure an improvement, which is required for this criterion. Centrio Energy representatives will also be working on campus outreach campaigns and consider how to satisfy the requirements of this criterion.

EN 8 Employee orientation: Commissioners Fallot, Yates, and Wolbert are interested in working on this criterion. They will work together to cover the various types of employee orientation: lecturers and faculty, part time lecturers, and non-academic staff.

EN 9 Staff Professional Development and Training: Commissioners Fallot and Yates are willing to work on this criterion with human resources. Chair Kovacs will contact the Provost's office to collect data on diversity issues training for faculty.

EN 11 Intercampus Collaboration: Chair Kovacs will be point person and provide a STARS Peer Review for another higher education institution

EN 12: Continuing Education: Commissioner Yates would like to be point person on this criterion and will follow-up with an external contractor to provide the necessary measurable data required.

EN13 Community service: Commissioner Yates will serve as point person for this criterion. It was suggested to include the Honors College for data.

OP2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Commissioner Korkmaz (Energy Advisory Committee Representative) will be the point person and will work with Centrio Energy to obtain emissions data and reductions.

OP3 Building Design and Construction: Commissioner Valdes will serve as point person for this criterion. Centrio energy will assist where they can.

OP4 Building Operations and Maintenance: Commissioner Valdes will serve as point person on this criterion. Centrio energy will assist where they can.

Op7 Food and Beverage Purchasing: Commissioners Smith and Wade will serve as point for this criterion

OP9 Landscape Management Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Commissioner Grant will serve as point for this criterion

OP10 Biodiversity Plan Suggested: Commissioner Greenwald will serve as point for this criterion. She suggested this work will likely serve as an internship position for an ENVI student. Having a plan for Fish Lake may suffice the criterion.

OP11-14 Sustainable Procurement: Commissioner Valdes feels the goal improvements are doable and Chair Kovacs will ask Commissioner Olson if she would like to serve as point.

OP17 Support for Sustainable Transportation Suggested point people: Commissioner Otto will serve as point on this criterion.

OP18 Waste Minimization and Diversion: Commissioners Grant, Halton, Smith, and Wade will all continue to work on this criterion. Commissioner Halton pointed out that large office furniture and e-waste waste diversion will not continue until Steve Siller is replaced. Commissioner Valdes stated that the position is being advertised.

OP21 Water Use: Commissioner Korkmaz (Energy Advisory Committee Representative) will serve as point person.

Chair Kovacs will serve as point person for PA2 Sustainability Planning, PA4 Reporting Assurance, PA9 Committee on Investor Responsibility, and PA10 Sustainable Investment.

IN4 Campus Pride Index: Commissioner Reder will serve as point person

## 6. New Business

**A. Appointment to the Energy Advisory Committee** This committee was requested in our resolution, SC-1-2023, regarding Sustainability Commission representation on the Energy Advisory Committee formed by our partnership with Centrio Energy. Commissioner Korkmaz was nominated by Commissioner Valdes who accepted the nomination. Vote by acclamation 13-0-0

**B. Presentation on banning plastic bags on campus** Presented by Estelle Hackos. Presentation included reasons to ban single-use plastic bags on campus with an assessment of alternatives. Chair Kovacs told the commission that this was an exploratory presentation for a future resolution. Commissioner Rich asked where plastic bags were used on campus. Commissioners mentioned the bookstore, Swoops Pantry, dining, and liners for garbage cans. Commissioner Otto mentioned that the physical plant is planning on going with a biodegradable liner in the future. Commissioner Smith felt that this could be feasible with dining. Commissioner Fallot felt this could be feasible with Swoops Pantry.

Motion to adjourn 5:00 PM

## Appendix: STARS Score Improvements

### Academic Category

AC1 Academic Programs 6.3/14 double courses (~27) and 2 more departments **1.65 and 0.4 = 2.05 pts**

AC2 Learning Outcomes 1.07/8 double **1.07 pts**

AC3 Sustainable focused minor: sustainability minor = 3/3

AC4 Sustainable focused grad certificate: sustainable construction = 1.5/3

AC5 Immersive experience = 2/2

AC6 Sustainability literacy assessment 0/4 conduct a pre- and post-assessment of sustainability literacy **4 pts**

AC7 Incentive for developing sustainability course 0/2

AC8 Campus as living laboratory 4/4

AC9 Research and Scholarship 3.1/12 triple **6.2 pts**

AC 10 Support for sustainability research = 0/4 Include in USRP and internal faculty research awards **2 pts**

AC11 Open Access to Research 0.67/2

**Total: 21.64/58 improve by 15.32 pts**

AC1 Academic Programs double courses (~27) from 2 more departments that include sustainability or tie environmental issues to social or economic issues or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in course description or syllabi

- Contact faculty of sustainability courses and ask for course and faculty referrals
- Contact department heads of departments with no sustainability courses for referrals
- Suggested point person: Wolbert

AC2 Learning Outcomes double programs that contain sustainability learning outcomes or add a sustainability learning outcome to the general education program

- Contact faculty of sustainability courses and ask for potential programs to target
- Contact General Education representatives and start a dialogue
- Suggested Point People: Kovacs, Wolbert

AC6 Sustainability Literacy Assessment Conduct pre- and post-assessment for all undergraduates

- Contact Provost's office who may be interested in completing an assessment
- Sherry Bumpus reached out to me to ask if this had been done.
- Suggested point person: Kovacs

AC9 Research and Scholarship triple

- Contact faculty of sustainability courses and ask for sustainability research in department
- Contact ORDA and ask for known sustainability research
- Suggested point people: Kovacs, Wolbert

AC10 Support for Sustainability Research Include in USRP and internal faculty research awards

- Contact Associate Provost and Assistant Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research, currently Steve Pernecky to see if internal awards can be used to increase this number (also would help provide points in AC 9)
- Suggested point people: Kovacs

## **Engagement Category**

EN1 Student Educators program 0/4 Reaching 50% of students **2 pts**

EN2 Student orientation 0/2 Reaching 50% of students **1 pt**  
 EN3 Student Life (Giving Garden, SWOOPS, ENVI events) 1.5/2  
 EN4 Outreach materials and publications (emich.edu/sustainability) 0.8/2  
 EN5 Outreach campaign 0/4 GEOG 150 or student group toward students and staff **4 pt**  
 EN6 Assessing sustainability culture 0/1  
 EN7 Employee educators program 0/3  
 EN8 employee orientation 0/1 Reaching 50% of new employees **0.5 pt**  
 EN9 staff professional development and training 0/2 Diversity issues training **1.25 pt**  
 EN10 Community partnerships (SEMIS, Family Empowerment Program) 3/3  
 EN11 Intercampus collaboration (e.g. AASHE member) 1/3 STARS Peer Review **0.5 pt**  
 EN12 Continuing Education 0/5  
 EN13 Community service (2.4% students) 0.08/5 Include data from McNair, Athletics, EngageEMU, social work, LBC 2 to increase by 20x **1.6 pt**  
 EN14 Participation in public policy 0/2  
 EN15 trademark licensing 0/2

**Total 6.38/41 improve by 10.85 pts**

- EN1 Student Educators program Reaching minimum 50% of students
  - Contact Sierra Club and Undergraduate Student Government
  - Program must include trained student educators creating peer-to-peer sustainable education with recorded work hours
  - Suggested point people: Greenwald, McCormick, Reder, Wade
- EN2 Student Orientation Reaching minimum 50% of students
  - Contacting SOAR and transfer student orientation to include sustainability prominently in orientation activities and programming
  - Suggested point people: Grant, Smith, McKinnie, Rich
- EN5 Outreach Campaign Reaching minimum 50% of students and Staff
  - Program must yield measurable positive results in advancing sustainability
  - Contact Sierra Club and GEOG 150 Thinking Sustainably course and other faculty teaching sustainability courses
  - Suggested point people: Greenwald
- EN8 employee orientation Reaching minimum 50% of new employees
  - Contact HR to include sustainability programming in employee orientation
  - Suggested point people: Fallot, Yates, Wolbert
- EN9 Staff Professional Development and Training Reaching minimum 50% of employees
  - Contact HR to provide sustainability professional development opportunities and credit in staff performance reviews
  - Contact Provost's office to collect data on the Provost's effort to provide diversity issues training to all faculty
  - Suggested point people: Fallot, Yates, Kovacs
- EN11 Intercampus Collaboration Provide a STARS Peer Review
  - Review a STARS submission for another higher education institution
  - Suggested point person: Kovacs
- EN12 Continuing Education
  - Contact external contractor to provide necessary data
  - Suggested point person: Yates
- EN13 Community service Increase by 20x
  - Contact more offices to find community service data

- Offices to contact include McNair, Athletics, EngageEMU, School of Social Work, General Education (LBC 2)
- Suggested point person: Yates

## Operations Category

OP1 part 1 Greenhouse Gas scope 1 (37693 MtCO<sub>2</sub>) and 2 (54891 MtCO<sub>2</sub>) emissions  
 OP1 part 2 pollutant emissions inventory and Disclosure 2.04/3  
 OP2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions 0.45/8 Reduce emissions by 10% **0.4 and 0.4 = 0.8 pts**  
 OP3 Building design and construction 1.85/3 LEED but not certified **-0.6 pt**  
 OP4 Building operations and maintenance 0/5 LEED but not certified **2 pt**  
 OP5 Building energy consumption 3.21/6  
 OP6 Clean and Renewable Energy 0/4  
 OP7 Food and Beverage Purchasing 0.55/6 Increase food to 20% sustainable **1.2 pt**  
 OP8 Sustainable dining (farmers market, Growing Hope, low impact dining events, vegan and vegetarian options, food recovery network, etc.) 1.75/2  
 OP9 Landscape Management 0/2 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) **1.0 pt**  
 OP10 Biodiversity 0/2 Plan to protect endangered species and areas of biodiversity importance **2 pt**  
 OP11 Sustainable Procurement 0.5/3 Green cleaning products, FSC more than 30%, Energy Star appliances **0.75 pt**  
 OP12 Electronics Purchasing 0.09/1 EnergyStar **0.25 pt**  
 OP13 Cleaning and Janitorial Purchasing 0.71/1 Certified green **0.29 pt**  
 OP14 Office Paper Purchasing 0.06/1 FSC > 30% **0.34 pt**  
 OP16 Commuter modal split (68% student sustainable transport, 23% employee sustainable transport) 2.85/5  
 OP17 Support for Sustainable Transportation 0.2/1 Scooter sharing, incentives for fuel efficient vehicles, charging stations **0.6 pt**  
 Op18 Waste Minimization and Diversion 3.61/8 Compost and ewaste recycle increase by 10% **0.3 pt**  
 OP19 Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion (Strong LEED certified 59% waste diverted from landfill) 0.59/1  
 Op20 Hazardous waste management (chemical hygiene plan, licensed hazardous waste disposal) 0.5/1  
 OP21 Water Use 0/4 Reduce water use by 7.5% by user and building area and on grounds **0.99 pt**  
 Op22 Rainwater management (retention ponds, bioswales, green roof, rain gardens) 2/2  
 Total 20.98/70 **Improve by 9.92 pt**

OP2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduce emissions by 10%

- Work with Centrio Energy to make utilities more efficient while maintaining a path toward zero carbon emissions
- Suggested point person: Korkmaz (Energy Advisory Committee Representative)

OP3 Building Design and Construction LEED rating, but not certified

- Work with Centrio Energy, Welcome Home 2025, Physical Plant to maintain LEED criteria without certification.
- Suggested point person: Valdes

OP4 Building Operations and Maintenance LEED rating, but not certified

- Work with Centrio Energy, Welcome Home 2025, Physical Plant to maintain LEED criteria without certification.

- Suggested point person: Valdes
- OP7 Food and Beverage Purchasing Increase food to 20% sustainable
  - Work with dining to increase sustainable food options
  - Suggested point people: Smith, Wade
- OP9 Landscape Management Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
  - Work with the Grounds Department to develop an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan
  - Suggested point person: Grant
- OP10 Biodiversity Plan to protect endangered species and areas of biodiversity importance
  - Develop a plan with the Department of Biology and the Environmental Science and Society program to protect endangered species and areas of biodiversity importance.
  - Suggested point person: Greenwald
- OP11-14 Sustainable Procurement Energy Star appliances, Green cleaning products, FSC more than 30%,
  - Work with purchasing to develop a plan to purchase Energy Star-rated electronics, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper, and green cleaning products.
  - Suggested point person: Olson
- OP17 Support for Sustainable Transportation Scooter sharing, incentives for fuel efficient vehicles, charging stations
  - Work with LAZ parking to find incentives for fuel efficient vehicles and adding charging stations
  - Suggested point person: Otto
- OP18 Waste Minimization and Diversion Compost and e-waste recycle increase by 10%
  - Work with Dining to increase composting (already done), physical plant to increase e-waste recycling and remove garbage cans from classrooms and centrally locate them in buildings
  - Suggested point people: Grant, Halton, Smith, Wade
- OP21 Water Use Reduce water use by 7.5% by user and building area and on grounds
  - Work with Centrio Energy to reduce water use
  - Suggested point person: Korkmaz (Energy Advisory Committee Representative)

## Planning and Administration

- PA1 Sustainability coordination (sustainability commission) 1/1
- PA2 Sustainability planning (Sustainability in strategic plan) 1/4 Sustainability Plan **2 pt**
- PA3 Participatory Governance (Students and academic staff governance body, 37.5% women BOR) 0.88/3
- PA 4 Reporting Assurance 0/1 Complete reporting assurance **1 pt**
- PA5 Diversity and Equity Coordination (DCI, Office of Diversity and AA, cultural competency training) 1.78/2
- PA6 Assessing Diversity and Equity (Biennial Campus Climate Assessment) 0.5/1
- PA7 Support for underrepresented groups (numerous listed on website) 3/3
- PA8 Affordability and Access (44% need met, 36% graduate w/o debt, 41% low-income, 55% grad rate) 2.34/4
- PA9 Committee on Investor Responsibility 0/2 Form committee on investor responsibility and include faculty, staff, and students **2 pt**
- PA10 Sustainable Investment 0/3 Include 20% of invested funds in sustainable investment defined in this criteria **1 pt**

PA11 Investment Disclosure (publicly available investments) 0.75/1  
PA12 Employee Compensation 0/3  
PA13 Assessing Employee Satisfaction 0.29/1  
PA14 Wellness Program (numerous listed on website) 1/1  
PA15 Workplace Health and Safety (MIOSHA, EGLE, NRC and other state and federal regulations) 1.12/2

Total 13.66/32 **improve by 6 pts**

PA2 Sustainability Planning Make a long-term sustainability plan to reach STARS Gold and approach carbon neutrality by 2050

- Expand on this document and our STARS report to create a sustainability plan for EMU.
- Work with the AASHE network to template a sustainability plan
- Suggested point person: Kovacs

PA4 Reporting Assurance Complete reporting assurance for our next STARS submission

- Find a person to complete the reporting assurance procedure for STARS submission, which involves following a documented process of checking our STARS report for missing and incorrect information.
- Suggested point person: Kovacs

PA9 Committee on Investor Responsibility Form committee on investor responsibility and include faculty, staff, and students

- Suggested point person: Kovacs

PA10 Sustainable Investment Include 20% of invested funds in sustainable investment defined in the STARS manual for this criterion

- Suggested point person: Kovacs

### **Innovation and Leadership Category**

IN-4 Campus Pride Index **0.5 pt**

\*IN-7 Community Garden **0.5 pt**

IN-11 External Reporting Assurance **0.5 pt**

\*IN-20 Grounds Certification **0.5 pt**

Palm Oil Certification **0.5 pt**

IN-14 Food Bank (Swoops) 0.5

IN-41 Textbook Affordability 0.25

\* Pursue IN7 or IN20

**Improve 2 x 2 pts = 5 pts**

IN4 Campus Pride Index Improve EMU's Campus Pride Index

- Include EMU's Campus Pride Index in the next STARS report and improve the score to the top score
- Work with the president's office and the Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to institute the necessary policy changes
- Suggested point person: Reder

\*IN7 Community Garden Continue Campus Garden and increase community involvement



- Ensure that the Campus Garden continues and increase the community involvement
- Work with the physical plant, Children's Institute, and the environmental science groups to manage activities at the campus garden for community involvement
- Suggested point people: Grant, Greenwald, Halton

IN 11 External Reporting Assurance Pursue an external auditor for our reporting assurance (see PA4)

- Suggested point person: Kovacs

\*IN20 Grounds Certification Obtain a national grounds certification

- Seek one of the following grounds certifications: Bee Campus USA or Tree Campus USA (Arbor Day Foundation)
- Work with the Sierra Club and the physical plant to pursue one of these certifications that students have had interest in the past
- Suggested point person: Grant, Greenwald

IN? Palm Oil Certification Obtain the new palm oil certification

- Work with UM Dearborn to obtain the new palm oil certification
- Suggested point people: Smith, Wade

**Total improvement = 15.32 + 10.85 + 9.92 + 6 = 42.09 pts**

**New score = (104.75/201) x 100 + 2.75 = 54.9 (Silver between 45 and 65)**