

Date: April 5, 2022

Attendees: Tom Kovacs, Anke Wolbert, Mary Jane Fallot, Emily Lescelius, Luke Yates, Kasim Kormaz, Stephanie Bell, Katherine Greenwald, Kaja Zum Mallen, Alexandra Parsons, Kevin Kucera, Ron Rich, Jessi Kwek, Paula Sears (joining 4:03pm)

Guests: Amy Finkenbine, Doris Fields

Chair Kovacs: introductions of Doris Fields, Interim Chief Diversity Officer and Amy Finkenbine, interim chair of the Department of Diversity and Community Involvement

Two new Commissioners:

1. Kasim Korkmaz – faculty member in construction management. Convert buildings into sustainable buildings, very happy to be in committee.
2. Emily Lescelius, Housing Services manager – new position, middle person between housing facilities

Commission Chair Report:

1. Climate summit: 5/18/22  
Tom Porter, local businessperson, would like everyone to go climate neutral. Would like EMU to go climate neutral; would like to get together Pres of UM & EMU and other leaders to discuss climate neutrality; assembled a meeting of largest carbon emitters in county -> hosted by WCCC; Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist will open  
Goal to achieve climate neutrality

EMU will be represented by Chair Kovacs and possibly somebody from the President's Office

Commissioner Greenwald suggested that Prof. Gavin Edwards in chemistry is contacted because of his work on climate justice in Detroit.

2. STARS: report should be complete this month or next  
Process of submission: we will recommend that the report be submitted to AASHE; then Pres Office will read it over and submit with an executive letter attached.

Discussed three options to move forward:

Bylaws requires we have a motion to report with a simple majority vote

Do we meet in the summer, approve to have an email vote, or do we wait until the fall

Commissioner Fallot: How long will it take to get info back after submission?

Chair Kovacs: Once we submit, AASHE will review, with a back and forth discussion one various elements -> not sure how long it will take overall, but probably a few months. We just need to submit it this calendar year before our STARS subscription runs out.

Commissioner Fallot: Given that we have worked on it for years, I believe we need to do this sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Greenwald: Agreed. Would also be comfortable to review today and do a motion to empower you to make any additional changes as final comes in.

Chair Kovacs: I think an email vote would be the fastest and would allow a review of our submission by the commission before approval.

Motion to move ahead on STARS report submission with email vote in the summer. By Commissioner Wolbert, Second: Commissioner Fallot; unanimous vote 11-0-0 to accept, motion carries

3. STARS preliminary score report was shared with a current score of 21.92 with several criteria still to be completed and scored. 25 is needed for bronze level certification.
4. Subcommittee reports
  - a. Subcommittee:
    - i. Academic; still being worked on are AC 8 & 9 -> currently the replies to survey regarding those are limited; additional outreach planned by Commissioners Greenwald and Wolbert
    - ii. Engagement:

Commissioner Fallot: Information has been in there for a while, but much of the info could benefit from some growth as we were not able to do much during the COVID shutdown. There is a lot of info we gathered from the other universities and there are many ideas of where we can implement items and improve our scores in the future

Commissioner Yates: I looked what other schools were doing and what we can take benefits from in terms of improvements. Summary provided on our Google Drive folder. Some schools have an ongoing subscription and complete a report each year.
    - iii. Operations: Mike Valdez and Chris Grant are currently not present. Reports for missing OP criteria have been concluded and needed to be uploaded in STARS -> emission are worse than expected; rainwater management & dining we do well; commuter/resident split: 68% of students sustainably transport; 23% of employees do.
    - iv. Planning & Administration:

Commissioner Kucera: This we do quite well; PA4 STARS reporting Assurance is still left outstanding. Jerry Brox from Commissioner Valdez's Office could probably help with PA 4; position of Chief Diversity Officer may add something the score. We have a pretty old employee climate survey. University employees' wages might need to be updated to see if the info included student workers

Chair Kovacs: would you want to contact Jerry?

Commissioner Kucera: sure I will do that.

New Business: 2 presentations

1. Chair Kovacs: We recommended to the President a sustainability criteria in all RFPs, which was instituted. However, it does not get run by this commission. I had requested a presentation about the new housing plan because of concerns that we have not been included to this point. Commissioner Lescelius will give us that presentation.

Commissioner Lescelius: Ultimately, Commissioners Valdez and Grant are the best to share most of this information. Gilbane Development Company will be willing to speak as guest speakers and present here but need a bit more lead time. They did provide links/additional resources on their past green initiatives and projects, but couldn't provide any EMU specifics just yet. They really just started to kick off planning meetings with the Physical Plant and our Housing Directors this year in January and are very much still talking about big picture, general concepts right now. Like most construction projects, they have reiterated that their plans are forever changing/adapting as all teams work together moving forward.

Gilbane did express that while everything is still being worked out, they will have the more concrete, specific STARS information we are looking for the closer we get to the new fall semester. Sustainability practices will be an on-going commitment from their company, and that they have every intention to meet, if not exceed, today's standards. While it may still be too early to say what *type* or *brand* of materials they will be using, they did assure us that they will be using high energy efficient building components (windows, roofs, HVAC systems, etc). However, LEED certification will not be pursued.

Waste management will be a shared responsibility between Gilbane and the Physical Plant. Recycling responsibilities are still being determined, however Gilbane did say they are willing and ready to provide the service if it does not stay in the Physical Plant's area.

2. Introducing the Interim Chief Diversity Office (Doris Fields) and the Chair of the Department of Diversity and Community Involvement (Amy Finkenbine)  
Role: executive leadership on DEI initiatives across campus; first, need to build a team; DEI listening tour across campus; concluded with an impact report plus additional projects.

Commissioner Fallot: There are still no recycle bins in the ballroom -> we talked about this before. That's a really high traffic area during big events.

Commissioner Fallot: Motion to Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:48 PM