



## Second meeting of the Campus Sustainability Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Feb. 22, 2019

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

205 Welch Hall

1. Approve [Minutes](#) (also see Sustainability Commission Team Drive for draft of November meeting minutes)
2. Introduce new commission members (Sherry Owens, Molly Dixon)
3. Commission Chair Report (Tom Kovacs)
4. Academic Subcommittee Report (Tom Kovacs)
5. Engagement Subcommittee Report (Lisa Voelker)
6. Operations subcommittee Report (Callie Gavorek)
7. Planning and Administration Report (Kevin Kucera)
8. Resolutions and Recommendations
9. Audience Participation
10. Bylaws (see Sustainability Commission Team Drive for draft of Bylaws -and please edit)
11. Adjourn

Attendees: Molly Dixon, Lyla Ellens, Mary Fallot, Chris Finch, Sarah Fisher, Callie Gavorek, Chris Grant, Wes Howell, Eva Koelzer, Tom Kovacs, Kevin Kucera, Negar Heidari Matin, Kirsten Olson-Roque, Sherry Owens, Luis Romero, Lewis Savage, Mike Valdes, Lisa Voelker, Kaja Rasmussen, Colleen Sadows.

[Link to the google slides](#)

1. November meeting minutes approved 13-0-0
2. Sherry Owens and Kristen Olson-Roque introduced themselves as new members. Wes Howell introduced himself as this was his first meeting.
3. **Chair report :**
  - nominations for commission chair next year, please send an email to Tom Kovacs by April 12.
  - Bike share program with SPIN was to begin in September, but the deal fell through in July, were interested in scooters. However scooters are not allowed on campus.
  - [Veoride](#) proposed a new deal that is tabled until the Summer. Dockless, unlocked via app. Geo fenced. No up-front cost. What happens if bikes



end up in places that are not easy to retrieve? Answer: If it ends up outside of the geofence there is a fee (currently \$120) to the student. If the bike is lost there is a \$500-600 replacement fee. App shows where the bikes are located. Would there be a pop-up that may also notify user of safety concerns? Answer: This is negotiable.

- [Ann Arbor bike share](#), may expand all the way to EMU with two on campus dock sites proposed. Veoride is dockless and charges by the company swapping batteries. Spin bikes would charge using solar panels.
- SPIN: historical conversation and creation of MOU would need to occur again with any vendor.
- We need to account for the use of the sharing of bikes with respect to campus document for student behaviour, and added to the student conduct code. ie: if a fraternity decided to see how many they can collect. Set up an expectation with DPS in advance.
- Athletics was super interested in this. Also provides connection between the COB and main campus. Parking in the green lot and convo center and then biking in on the border to border trail.
- We may want to look at a seasonal limitation. ie: During ice storms? We will need to check in with legal about the liability.
- Is there a cost for students? Each time check out, Veo also includes mileage, SPIN charges for time. Veoride cost is negotiable with 0.50 cents for 15 minutes and \$10 per month typical for university faculty, staff, and students.
- 5,000 lbs of food from food recovery network , first 2 deliveries made this year delivered 130 lbs. Of food to Parkridge Community Center and Ypsi Meals on wheels.
- Faculty senate had a commission update/briefing, Tom was reminded he does not represent the faculty. They were open to the idea of the commissions work and being invited to appoint a faculty representative to the commission.
- EMU STEM day: March 15th : 100 city of Ypsi High School Students Upward Bound FTIAC students. Students will look at possible majors. Full day of activities planned for them.
- Commission participation: most of the work is done in the subcommittees. Everyone in this room is also very busy. Some members have been having trouble with email, what are some communications ideas:
- Strategically, clearly identify with the group, and then assign a caretaker of that goal. They will then make sure that goal is maintained. Break it down into quadrants and then adjust to the goals that suit the person



- Currently the Chairs are : Academic, Operations, planning and admin. Engagement and Planning.
- 10-15 criteria per subcommittee in the STARS. Academic only has two representatives and should have one from faculty senate and one from the provost's office that is still unfilled.
- Engagement subcommittee needs to designate a chair with the loss of the current chair from the commission.
- Operations are working well on their goals.
- Students are doing well with reporting on the STARS
- Cold calling busy people, if they don't recognize the sender, perhaps designate a liaison from over the University who can craft a canned response, and serve as a conduit. Specifically Electronics purchasing and etc, Mike Valdes will also be fine with facilitate the communications like this. Rather than Leigh Greden. Looking for efficiency
- Long term goals: STARS rating system is the bar we need to strive towards, marketing, recommendations are also key to planning. Address the areas where we are deficient, perhaps a full-time person, we are currently in the analysis, measuring phase of STARS
- Pooling experts that care to create a network, working together is the goal and striving towards the . Green purchasing program Office Depot on Facebook page, Using the logo and having brand awareness, online presence and
- Marketing: Sherry Owens has 8 questions :
  - a. What are your goals for marketing, what do you want to achieve?
    - We need to tell our story, we will have more in the future. Consistent message is that we do a lot of good things, and unfortunately, a lot of bad things garner more attention. Internal to Faculty Staff recruitment and retention are also integral to this marketing strategy. KK: Walter Kraft and communications team are doing great things and would be a great resource for this. Mike V. : think of this as a framework as how we want the University to operate under. TK: build a culture of sustainability on campus. We ARE GREEN , already has built in connotation to green initiatives. Students when bikes are seen around campus we are looking to add the logo to all things relating to sustainability, stickers or logo to remind people. Branding on the bikes, sustainable signs in bathrooms, dorms, offices, and classrooms
  - b. Who's your intended audience?
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- c. What are the action steps you are hoping your audience will take as a result of marketing?
- d. What is the main message? Are there other messages?
- e. How would you like your audience to feel when interacting with your brand?
- f. Will you attend promotional events? (ie: attending a conference and bring a display to share what we are doing on EMU's campus)  
Answer: Not necessarily unless it is related to EMU or alumni
- g. How often will you have messages to communicate. Answer:  
Currently have social media, how do we best utilize social media?
- h. Do you have staff available to regularly update materials? Answer:  
Currently just the commission

#### **4. Academics Report**

Google Form sent out to all university department heads to inventory sustainable courses and programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Met with ORDA to determine resources for sustainable research and to inventory sustainable research in the last 3 years. ORDA will accumulate these statistics for us. Need to meet with Creative commons to discuss open access publishing policies and Study Abroad to discuss immersive sustainability experiences. All STARS criteria should be complete or partially complete by the end of the academic year.

#### **5. Engagement Report**

Has had some communication issues. Natalie is no longer with the group and chair Lisa Voelker resigned. Eva has begun work on the community service line, Tom will call the next meeting, assign a chair, and get things moving.

#### **6. Operations Report**

Callie, a lot of work but chipping away. Mark Monarch retired so his replacement will hopefully bring some of those things that Mark once handled. Purchasing is not black and white, but progress is being made by Kirsten Olson-Roque. Storm water management is complete, Chris Grant is working on biodiversity and landscape management practices with Molly Dixon and other volunteer students. Dining, is examining invoices, and still a whole lot of work ahead.

#### **7. Planning and Administration Report**

Also chipping away on STARS criteria. Began with low-income students, gather info about Pell Grants \$26 million, Supplemental grants and Federal Work Study program, Upward Bound, Trio Program are support programs EMU from general fund will be a part of this Education First Scholarships. Over 1000 students, \$8 million on this program, a number of resources for students, like the children's institute to support non-traditional students. Also identifying if endowment uses funds in a socially responsible way, Team drive has the document. Living wage? \$9.45 - Single \$11.20, \$21.60. Nearly 5K student employees, nearly 30% are paid under living wage. Subcommittee is



continuing assessing and Kaja is able to add things to the team drive. Luis is student government representative. Chris of the children's institute. Kaja has been able to glean investment information from Mike. Gold Star and Silver Star schools, have been looked at to benchmark where we stand. Access to the the hundreds of Universities, Hourly wages Contract Employee wages? 600 employees in dining alone, do we include their wages? Answer: Callie will share an HR contact that can provide the contractor wages. MJF: June 3rd - 6th Sustainability conference. BASF Wyandotte meeting.

#### 8. Resolutions:

Mark Monarch's position has been posted, suggesting it has some sustainability criteria added to it, certifications Operations. Different leed area certifications, promoting having someone brought on to We now have 3 LEED buildings on campus now. Callie has a question Are the credentials too strong, add it as "desirable credential", [the exam is expensive](#). We would want to be careful about requiring it, perhaps just leave "involvement in some LEED certified building project, familiarity on the LEED certification. Interior design Impact on the role, 3-5 years demonstrated experience in the higher education setting. After amendments to the resolution, motion to approve:

#### SC-OP-1-2019

WHEREAS the Sustainability Commission has been tasked to assess, improve, and communicate Eastern Michigan University's (EMU's) level of sustainability as defined by our working definition of sustainability found on our website; and

WHEREAS the improvement of sustainability can be best achieved by a motivated community aware of the importance and benefits of a sustainable EMU; and

WHEREAS the consideration of new EMU employees that have an appropriate level of sustainability knowledge relevant to their position costs nothing, but benefits the university and wider community in creating a culture of sustainability and its focus on environmental vitality, economic development, and community prosperity and resilience;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission recommends to the president's office that the replacement for the manager; Technical/Mechanical Trades and Utilities would preferably have a background that includes the following:

- Experience :
  - Three to five years experiences implementing sustainable initiatives to improve clean and renewable energy; greenhouse gas emissions; and/or outdoor air quality.
  - Involvement in at least one LEED certified project
  - Data collection and reporting for Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) score.



- Desired Qualifications:
  - LEED Credential:
    - LEED Green Associate
    - LEED AP Operations and Maintenance

**Motion seconded and unanimously approved 13-0-0**

Second resolution:

SC-OP-2-2019

WHEREAS the Sustainability Commission has been tasked to assess, improve, and communicate Eastern Michigan University's (EMU's) level of sustainability as defined by our working definition of sustainability found on our website; and

WHEREAS the improvement of sustainability can be best achieved by establishing standards, expectations, and contract obligations for future outside companies servicing, providing management oversight, and completing construction on EMU premises;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission recommends to the president's office that all future contracts built with outside companies are passed by the Sustainability Commission to make sure sustainability initiatives and requirements are built into these contracts to increase sustainability efforts at EMU and improve this university's Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) score.

EXAMPLE: If EMU Housing and Residence Life is privatized or invested in for construction purposes, this proposal would entail that the Request for Proposal and final contract(s) made to comply with AASHE STARS credits three through five.

Discussion:

Subjective vs. objective guidelines to be added to contracts. Housing residence life has been looked at, and adding that we are a recommending body rather than an approving body. Mike V. : Provide guidance on the front-end. There needs to be consideration for sustainability. Not realistic for the commission to review every contract. " Here are our concerns and considerations" What we could call for in the proposals, please provide this information regarding LEED certification to drive bids and proposals. Which can be a part of the package, could be in the procurement bid pack, and input around sustainable practices, we just closed a bid for merchant services for credit card, but aligning other bids with green initiatives, We are not all experts, so having an expert is desirable. Certain RFPs go out and some Universities, and then the RFP should state that we have a goal of 20% local, proposals and organizations. Consider how each university is at a certain point in their evolution, LEED silver attainment is possible, but



aren't always realistic from a pedagogical standpoint.**Motion to table this discussion until the next meeting seconded**

Adjourned