



**Eastern Michigan University
President's Commission on Sustainability
February Meeting**

11:00am—12:30pm February 14, 2020 205 Welch Hall

Present: Heather Khan Welsh, Sarah Fisher, Katy Greenwald, Luke Yates, Ronald Rich, Kirsten Olson-Roque, Molly Dixon, Paul Somerville, Mary Jane Fallot, Savannah Koth, Callie Gavorek, Kaja Zum Mallen, Mike Valdes, Kevin Kucera, Chris Grant.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. 2-22-2019* Approved as distributed via email from Heather.
- b. 11-1-2019* Approved as distributed via email from Heather.

III. Introductions

IV. Reports

- a. Commission Chair Report (Heather Khan Welsh)
 - *Jeanette Zalba is the new Director of Housing & Residential Life. She has been invited to serve on Commission, Operations Subcommittee.
 - *No replacement yet for Mark Monarch. We need an interim subcommittee chair. Subcommittee will meet soon.
- b. Academic Subcommittee Report (Heather Khan Welsh)
 - *G&G Urban and Regional Planning faculty search is ongoing. Person will have experience in sustainability and resiliency. 64 applications were received, in-person interviews are ongoing. Commissioners are invited to research talks:
Monday 2/17, 1:30-2:30pm in Strong 112;
Tuesday 2/18, 1:30-2:30pm in Strong 215;
Thursday 2/20, 1:00-2:00pm in Strong 215.
 - *Subcommittee will meet in March.
- c. Engagement Subcommittee Report (Mary Jane Fallot)
 - *Subcommittee will meet in the next several weeks.
- d. Planning and Administration Report (Kevin Kucera)
 - *Subcommittee has met, updated information re: affordability and access: financial aid programs; resources for nontraditional students; programs like CAPS, Upward Bound, etc.; investor responsibility. They are about halfway through the questions re: employee compensation and satisfaction (in consultation with HR).
- e. Operations Subcommittee
 - *Subcommittee has not met, will meet soon.

VI. Old Business

- a. Formation of an Executive Committee
*Executive Committee to consist of Commission chair plus chairs of each subcommittee; may meet 1-2 times per year. Discussion ensued: may be a good way to maintain momentum and continuity, however scope may be too broad to be useful; will need to focus on specific issues. Meeting will be scheduled to continue discussion.
- b. Bylaws: Ratification or Continuation with Draft Bylaws
*No issues have come up with current draft bylaws. By-laws will be reviewed and edited to allow for electronic voting; vote on official adoption will occur at April meeting.
- c. Resolution SC-OP-2-2019
*Mike Valdes presents language on reviewing proposals. Motion to request that every RFP that the University issues request information on how vendors' proposals would improve our AASHE STARS score stated as follows:

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 each request for proposal contains standard language that requests

information from the prospective vendor about the vendors corporate sustainability commitments and how their proposal would improve the university's Association for the

Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) score.

EMU Sustainability Framework: <https://www.emich.edu/sustainability/sustainability-atemu/sustainability-framework.php>

*Motion to approve; 14-0-0.

VII. New Business

- a. P A 4: Reporting Assurance
*Some of the AASHE STARS criteria have changed and there have been some additions. We need to have an audit of the report by an internal or external body. We have an internal auditor at EMU who could be used. Could also consider using someone on the City of Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission.
*Discussion ensued on the reporting process and how current data the need to be. Reporting tool needs to be updated to version 2.2. Everyone should check on

new/revised criteria, and make sure data are sufficiently up-to-date. Get as much data entered as possible for April meeting so that Heather can work on report (hopefully to submit in May).

VIII. Announcements

Katy (for the City of Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission):

*City is working with consultants to develop a Sustainability Plan in conjunction with the new Mater Plan. This will be available soon and can be distributed to the EMU Commission.

*Ypsi Earth Day is Sunday, April 19, 3:00-7:00pm at the Ypsi Freighthouse in Depot Town. Please contact me if you would like to be involved.

*Washtenaw Conservation District is looking for locations for tree planting workshops, and would be happy to involve EMU students if we want to collaborate.

Mary Jane: recent internship fair included several environmental/sustainability organizations.

IX. Adjourn

Next meeting: Friday April 17, 11:00-12:30, Welsh 205.

Move to adjourn 14-0-0.

*Documentation available in Sustainability Commission Team Drive

Minutes taken by Katy Greenwald