



**Eastern Michigan University
President's Commission on Sustainability
Fall 2019 Meeting**

11:00am—12:30pm November 1, 2019 205 Welch Hall

Attendees: Molly Dixon, Mary Jane Fallot, Sarah Fisher, Callie Gavorek, Katy Greenwald, Chris Grant, Heather Khan-Welsh, Kevin Kucera, Sherry Owens, Luis Romero, Paul Sommerville, Luke yates, Kaja Zum Mallen

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes 2-22-2019* - approved (no vote)

III. Introductions

IV. Reports

a. Commission Chair Report (Heather Khan Welsh)

*Commission status: Requested ex officio position for ENVI Program Coordinator (will also serve on Academic Subcommittee). Lost several previous committee members (due to VERIP, other people left university, student on study abroad). Need to identify replacements for these positions sooner than later, especially for Operations Subcommittee.

*Lecturer's Union met with Admin this past summer; invitation extended for someone to apply to participate in Sustainability Commission.

*Everyone should have received an appointment letter. Let Heather know if you have not.

*CAS Dean confirms that we are approved to search for a Sustainability Planner (faculty in G&G).

*Food Recovery Network has been officially recognized as student group on campus.

*City of Ypsilanti is working on Sustainability Plan – how can we partner?

b. Academic Subcommittee Report (Heather Khan Welsh)

*Close to completing data collection needed for STARS. Missing info from Study Abroad.

*Email sent to Assoc Provost Michael Tew requesting a meeting re: including someone from the Provost's Office on the Academic Subcommittee.

*Reaching out to Karen Charter and Wade Tornquist to get data related to sustainability research within the University.

*Callie notes that the STARS criteria have changed in her area (plant-based rather than local food as the sustainable option).

c. Engagement Subcommittee Report (Mary Jane Fallot)

- *Subcommittee has met, reviewed items from previous submission; ideas for engagement: campus-wide sustainability brainstorming session might be valuable? Include prizes to encourage interaction/ideas.
- d. Planning and Administration Report (Kevin Kucera)
- *Have divided 14 questions among Subcommittee members and have preliminary answers to all of them. Questions relate to: Commitment of the University to sustainability; Diversity & Inclusion; Affordability & Accessibility; Resource Investments (i.e. EMU Foundation); Human Resources (living wages, employee satisfaction). Initial report can be updated with info from new fiscal year.
- e. Operations Subcommittee
- *Callie is stepping down as Operations Subcommittee chair; Mike Valdez may be a possibility to take over. Operations folks are stretched thin. Heather will reiterate that we need these positions filled. Important to get someone from Housing.

VI. Old Business

Resolution SC-OP-2-2019 [was tabled at February 2019 meeting]

*Outside contractors should be held to a certain standard of sustainability practices. Could be a large logistical problem due to the large number of contracts across campus. Discussion ensued: we want to delineate a process for determining which contracts should be run by this Commission. General support for including language in the RFPs to solicit how companies will address sustainability in the project. Which contracts do we want to review? Establishment of ad hoc subcommittee to work on language in the resolution: Callie, Paul, Luiz, Molly. Should also include Mike.

VII. New Business

- a. Formation of an Executive Committee
- *Proposed idea. Could include Commission Chair + Subcommittee Chairs. Might be helpful in improving efficiency and continuity; providing advice to chair; providing organizational direction.
 - *Motion (Mary Jane), Second (Luiz) – to establish Executive Committee for the Sustainability Commission. No vote.
- b. Bylaws: Ratification or Continuation with Draft Bylaws
- *Motion (Molly), Second (Sarah) – to table the adoption of the Bylaws of the Sustainability Commission.
- c. Commission Meeting Schedule for 2019-2020 Academic Year
- *Discussion of adding another 1-2 meetings to keep in touch and help move efforts forward. Maybe 2 per semester? For this year, perhaps one in Jan/Feb, one in April. Could submit STARS report at April meeting. Heather will send out Doodle poll to schedule Winter semester meetings.

VIII. Good of the Order

IX. Announcements

President Smith will attend one of our Winter meetings.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn (Molly), Second (Sarah). No vote.

*Documentation available in Sustainability Commission Team Drive

*Minutes taken by Katy Greenwald