



The **UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA**
Environmental Concerns Committee

Minutes

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

Call To Order

A meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee was held in Gould Hall on September 7th, 2017. It began at 9:00 AM and was presided by Suchi Bhattacharjee, with Alex Nongard as secretary.

Attendees

Voting Members in Attendance: Alex Nongard, Jeff Widener, Sara Mata, Suchi Bhattacharjee, Elena Bessarabova, Tom Burns, Michelle Burke

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: George Ahmadi, Jeremi Wright, Dave Hambricht, Burr Millsap, Brian Holderread, Sarah Ballew, Jason Hancock

Agenda Items

I. Elections (Chair and Secretary / Treasurer), Meeting Schedule, Attendance

Suchi: Before we elect the new officers, should we consider making ex-officio members voting members, considering there is often more continuity among them the actual appointed members of the committee.

Burr: We may have to figure out how to change the bylaws to do that, that's a potentially difficult process that I will look into.

Dave: We should create some mechanism to require attendance from students and staff/faculty who are appointed to the committee, and some sort of plan for when they can't make it.

Suchi: It would help if we had a fixed time, in perpetuity, for this meeting.

Dave: Early mornings work great, because students don't take morning classes

Alex: what's wrong with 9am on Thursdays?

All: basically nothing

Burr: Can we agree on 9am on the First Thursday of each month, in perpetuity so long as it stands?

Yes, so voted and passed

Sarah: Students often come to me wanting environmental info on campus, and since the purpose of this group is to be an information service for the campus, we should provide that info. I recommend a monthly schedule of environmental events, where different departments/groups can present over the progress

they've made and what they are doing environmentally. Printing services, A&E, OUR Earth, H&F, etc. could talk about it. That would put less burden on a chair to have a "topic" each month, because they can manage these presentations and plan for them, while committees do other work related to our mission.

All: This is a good idea.

Burr: I will volunteer as chair on one condition. Alex, will you continue on as secretary/treasurer?

Alex: Yes

Yes, so voted and passed.

Sarah: I can put the minutes on the new ECC / Sustainability website.

The minutes will be posted as submitted by the secretary, Alex Nongard, unless otherwise decided by the committee (such as when we select the winner of our annual prize).

Suchi: Regarding the timing of our meetings: if ex-officio members who can't make it can't make it, that is okay. If someone from a specific department from the ex-officio /departmental reps cannot make it, they should send someone else from that department.

Sarah: We should notify them of this in the body of the email, rather than the minutes: If they can't attend the meetings this semester, they should replace themselves with someone that can.

Dave: What about proxy votes for those who have voting privileges and cannot make it, especially if we extend the franchise to ex-officio members?

George: I don't think they're mentioned in the bylaws. Graduate Student Senate does that, but I'm not sure it's explicitly allowed here.

Suchi: Two things to consider for changing the bylaws: 1) ex-officio members with voting rights and 2) proxy voting rights for replacement members who fill in for those who can't make it.

II. Earth Month

Dave: Earth Month planning is already starting, and we're trying to have a close ECC relationship like last year, it was very successful. Many ECC members are on the planning committee (including Alex and Suchi), so I will be keeping you all updated throughout the planning process.

III. Chair-Elect Election

Suchi: Chair elect needs to be selected. Jeff?

Jeff: I can do it again this year.

Yes, so voted and passed.

IV. ECC Environmental Stewardship Award

Burr: The plaques for environmental recognitions given last year are in the process of finding a prominent place in the Student Union to be displayed. Brian Ellis is working with the President and the people at the Union to find a suitable location. The next awardee will be put on the plaque in the Union.

Jeff: Do we want to set a date for sending out an announcement to nominate for next year? We should start it sooner.

Dave: Yes, we have all staff/faculty awards for the spring due soon, so it's a good time because people are evaluating their peers already. By next meeting can we have a draft for the nomination process?

Suchi: Yes, I have the same one from last year that I can edit and make appropriate for this year.

Burr: We should have the nominations in by January, so we can compile and vote on them by the February meeting.

Suchi: Last year the nomination process was done via a Qualtrix online survey link. We can do that again.

Dave: It would be a good idea to have a flyer with last year's winners on it so we can advertise to new potential nominees and nominators. This will encourage people to apply/nominate once they see the validity of the award.

Future Agenda Items

I. October Meeting Topic

Jeff: Re:Sarah's idea for a monthly presentation on different departmental environmental progress, for next meeting, who wants to volunteer to give their presentation about their area of expertise?

Sarah: I can do that for what facilities management has been doing.

Adjournment

Burr: Move to adjourn?

So passed, meeting adjourned 9:45am