Minutes

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

Call To Order

A Zoom virtual meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee was held on March 15, 2021. It began at 2:03 PM and was presided by Tammy McCuen, the Environmental Concerns Committee chair.

Attendees

Voting Members in Attendance: Tamera McCuen, Timothy Smith, Jake Lange, Chris Rocha
Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Sarah Ballew, Brian Holderread, Zev Trachtenberg, Dorothy Flowers, Laura Tontz, Jeremi Wright, Joel Wilson, Randy Peppler, Spencer Dawson, Jennifer Ross, Robert Knox

Agenda Items

I. General Business
   a. Environmental Stewardship Award
      i. Spreadsheet with nominees and voting instructions sent to voting members
      ii. Submit questions to sarah.ballew@ou.edu by noon on Friday 03/19/2021
      iii. Rank nominees and return to Sarah Ballew by midnight on Sunday 03/21/2021

II. Program Presentation: Dr. Zev Trachtenberg, Director – Plans for Environmental Studies
   a. Program originated in the mid-1990s as a minor in Interdisciplinary Perspectives of the Environment
      i. Vision for role of the program
         1. Provide information about the study of the environment at OU (gateway function)
         2. Offer programming throughout the year
         3. Deliver curriculum
      ii. Proposals considered by APC – approval expected soon
         1. Focus on “cultivating interdisciplinary capacity” – think of the need to cut across disciplines, literature, etc.
         2. Idea is to not duplicate environmental content offered by other units.
      iii. Main points of curriculum
         1. Delete ENST B.S.
         2. Focus on B.A. specifically as training for working on interdisciplinary teams – This means that students should get a sense of what it means to work on a team with people from different teams.
         3. Encourage students to take B.A. as a second major, complementary to disciplinary training.
   b. Structure of revised B.A.
i. 30 credit hour major
   1. 15 credit hour core sequence
      a. Cornerstone
      b. Research/“High Impact” course
      c. Seminar for students to take an interdisciplinary look at environment
      d. Capstone for students to take on a local problem and work to find ways to solve the problem.
      e. Learning community through three 1 credit hour courses to develop social dialogue and interactions between students.
   2. 15 credit hours of electives
      a. 6 hours of interdisciplinary courses (largely ENST)
      b. 9 hours of single discipline courses

c. Next steps
   i. Get major up and running
   ii. Formalize affiliate faculty
   iii. Work on information portal function
   iv. Explore restoring masters program
   v. Other ideas? Questions?

Our last meeting for this academic year will take place on April 19th, 2021 at 2:00 PM via Zoom.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 3:10 PM.