



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 February 19, 2020. It began at 1:30 PM and was presided by Jeff Widener, the Environmental Concerns Committee co-chair.

Attendees

Voting Members in Attendance: Jeff Widener, Jeri Fleming, Lori Franklin

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Sarah Ballew, Julie Bahr, Zev Trachtenberg.

Agenda Items

I. Introduction

Our guest speaker for this month was Provost Kyle Harper. Questions were sent to Provost Harper prior to the meeting and he answered a couple of them:

1. Regarding the Strategic Plan, he explained that it's an all-hands-on-deck exercise. The ECC will not have a specific opportunity in the plan. This conversation took up about 15 minutes.
2. A second question addressed concerns over duplication in environmental degree offerings. Provost Harper agreed there were several opportunities on campus to study the environment and that that's a good thing. He also agreed that advisors on campus should be better informed and/or a system put in place that allow advisors to educate incoming students on OU offerings who want to study the environment – what does this degree offer over this degree, job prospects, etc.?

III. Old Business

A. Earth Month – Zev Trachtenberg

- The OU Earth Month is not happening in the same way it has in the past; however, several activities are happening both on and off campus that Dr. Trachtenberg is helping coordinate and advertise.

Date	Time	Event	Title	Location
March 30	7:00	Mike Reynolds	Saving the Planet, One Earthship at a Time	Gaylord Hall Auditorium
April 7	5:00	Webinar	Solving Climate by 2030	on-line
April 9	[3:30]	John McNeill	Ecological Teleconnections of the Industrial Revolution,	TBA

			1780-????: A Global Environmental History	
April 10	3:30	Clark Miller	Imagining and Designing Low-Carbon Societies	OMU, Regents Room
April 13-17		Green Week		
April 18	10:00	Stream Clean-up		Morgan Park
April 18	3:00	Dance performance	National Water Dance Project	Morgan Park
April 20	4:30	Candis Callison	The 12 Year Window: Locating Crisis, Climate Change, and Colonialism	OMU, Frontier Room
April 21	4:00	Rex Nielson	The Origins of Environmental Discourse in Brazil	Bizzell, LL118
April 22	10:30-2:00	Earth Day		South Oval

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B. Green Week – Julie Bahr

- Green Week is April 13 – 17
- Schedule:

Monday

Tree Fest (co-program) 9-11am OU Duck Pond

- Help OU Landscaping plant 4 trees at the OU Duck Pond. These trees fall under the Oklahoma Proven species list, a new initiative of OU Landscaping to better sustainability
- Bess Jackson from OU Landscaping will also be there to talk about sustainable tree species

Meatless Monday 12-2pm South Oval (rain backup: Union)

- Education event offering a holistic understanding of the impact food industries have on the environment
- Oliver and Friends Farm Sanctuary and CommonWealth Urban Farms of OKC set to come

Tuesday

Sustainability Fair 10am-2 pm Union Courtyard (rain backup: union)

- Co-program with Dot
- Booths/tables of representatives from OU environmental/ sustainability clubs and outside organizations

We Stan Secondhand 2:30-4:30 pm South Oval (rain backup: union)

- Promoting ThredUp's "Fashion Impact Calculator"
- Mannequins on display wearing either thrifted or fast fashion clothing with information about each outfit's impact
- Making headbands/scrunchies out of recycled t-shirts
- The Library OKC and Donate a Miracle set to attend

Wednesday

Cars are Exhausting 10 am-12 pm South Oval (rain backup: storm shelters)

- Buchannan Bicycles will be offering free bike tune-ups
- OU CART and Veoride set to attend and talk about alternative transportation options

- OU Public Health Discussions tabling about bike safety

Upcycled pARTs 2 -4 pm

- Students make a pledge to be more sustainable and then add a leaf, bird, etc. made of recycled plastic or clothing to the sculpture
- The base of the sculpture will be built prior to the event
- Art piece will be displayed at the Earth Day art show on April 22 from 6-9pm at the Resonator

GMO Panel 5-7 pm (time may change) Gould Hall Gallery

Thursday

One in Six 11am-1pm South Oval (rain backup: second wind)

- Event talking about food insecurity (event name comes from the statistic that 1 in 6 Americans are food insecure)
- OU Food Pantry and Food Recovery Network set to attend
- Inflatable obstacle course that we're going to decorate with different barriers to attaining nutritious food

Trashy Thursday 2-4pm South Oval (rain backup: union)

- Waste education event
- OK Bags Away and Fertile Grounds set to attend
- Making reusable bags out of t-shirts and planters out of aluminum cans and plastic bottles (plants and soil from OU Botany Club)

Friday

Don't Get Washed Away 10am-12pm South Oval (rain backup: the Union)

- Greenwashing education event (compare different sets of two products and see if students can identify which one is actually better for the environment)
- Emma and I are workshopping this event right now because the programming committee members who designed the event didn't offer a lot of details, so it's likely this event topic will change before Green Week

Soundscape Doors open at 8pm and bands perform from 9-11pm The Opolis

- Concert to celebrate the end of Green Week; one of the bands booked is Chelsea Days

C. Jeri Fleming gave an update on activities happening in Norman during the month of April:

- April 19th EarthDay Festival and Parade, Reeves Park.
- April 22nd Environmental Expo at the Norman Central Library at 6pm
- April 25 – 26 Green Recreation Weekend at Lake Thunderbird

D. Sarah Bellew gave an update on the Environmental Stewardship awards. We had received several individual nominations so far. Nominations close on March 6, 2020.

IV. Future Agenda Items

Our next meeting for this academic year will take place on March 11th at 1:30 PM in Gould Hall room 185. Any changes will be communicated via email.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned 2:30 PM