



The **UNIVERSITY** *of* **OKLAHOMA**
Environmental Concerns Committee

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 maters 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.