



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 November 2020. It began at 2:03 PM and was presided by Tamera McCuen, the Environmental Concerns Committee chair.

Attendees

Voting Members in Attendance: Tamera McCuen, Scott Greene, Caleb Muckala, Timothy Smith

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Sarah Ballew, Brian Holderread, Zev Trachtenberg, Gary Gress, Dorothy Flowers, Laura Tontz, Dipankar Ghosh, Jake Lange, Timothy Smith, Joel Wilson, Randy Pepler, Jeff Widener, Nathan Chris Rocha, Joel Wilson, Matthew Rom

Guests: Robert Knox and Robert Nairn

Agenda Items

I. General Business

- a. Proposed time & dates for future meetings
 - i. 2:00 – 3:00 pm February 15th, March 15th, April 19th

II. Program Presentation: Dr. Robert Knox – Community Engagement in Water Resources in Environmental Science Capstone Classes

- a. Overview of undergraduate capstone research in ES program at OU
 - i. Fall (hour)
 - 1. Resume, project management, Draft of project documents for spring field research
 - ii. Spring (three hours)
 - 1. Revision of project documents, Field research, Lab analysis, oral and written presentations
- b. Course is focused on engaged practitioner
 - i. Students must also address a real world problem in their capstone
 - ii. Requires a hands-on lab experience and emphasizes lab and field research
 - iii. Students also engage in non-academic environment to the actual impacted community.
 - iv. Structure and components of the class cover ABET accreditation criteria.
 - v. Projects complement ongoing research projects
- c. Dr. Knox also provided examples of some of the previous capstone projects
 - i. Runoff in Grand lake
 - ii. Metals contamination in lakes near Altus

- iii. City of Norman municipal building runoff water quality design
- iv. Dave Blue Creek treated wastewater treatment
 - 1. Impact on Lake Thunderbird and City of Norman water supply
- v. 202-2021 projects continue these efforts
 - 1. Focused on Norman, water quality concerns in Lake Thunderbird
- d. Potential collaborations with other disciplines
 - i. Also interested in more people participating in Environmental Science and Engineering Advisory Board.
- e. Questions from Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability and Environmental Studies regarding future collaborations and linkages.
 - i. Dr. Greene and Dr Trachtenberg will follow-up
- f. Caleb volunteers to talk to students regarding legal aspects of community-engaged capstone projects.
- g. In response to Tammie's question – approximate 15-50 students per year go through this program, and 21 this spring.
- h. Hopefully, COVID-19 will not hinder the experience this spring.
- i. Jake Lang – Question about Norman water quality
 - i. This is the main topic for the 2020-21 capstone projects.
- j. Potential collaboration with Architecture as well
- k. Class needs to be co-taught by scientists and engineers.
- l. Contact Dr. Knox for any additional information or slides.

III. Old Business

- a. How does the committee's work relate to OU campus operations and strategic plan?
- b. ECC is a public awareness organization with a focus related to:
 - i. Operations
 - ii. Academic opportunities
 - iii. Research opportunities
 - iv. Student group efforts
- c. Future Guest speakers/Presentations
 - i. Still unknown

IV. Other Topics for Discussion

- a. Identify topics for meetings and presentations
 - i. Email and suggestions to Tammy.

Our next meeting for this academic year will take place on February 15th, 2021 at 2:00 PM via Zoom.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 2:59 PM.