

## Minutes

### **Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am Student Center 217.**

- 1. Welcome and introductions:** Laura Miller is looking into opportunities to present research conducted by Dr. Pandey and Dr. Diller and herself at one of the Faculty Scholars Forum lunches held in the President's Dining Room. The report Emailed Prompts and Feedback Messages to Reduce Energy Consumption: Testing Mechanisms for Behavior Change by Employees at a Green University can be read at <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01608061.2016.1201034>
- 2. Food and Sustainable Events Updates:** Jeff Kwolek reported that UConn no longer uses big food buckets and so cannot donate them to be reused as recycling bins in the dorms. Jeff is also continuing work on trying to bring composting to Hurley Hall. Current considerations involve compost storage, frequency of pickup, and finding the funds to support the composting initiative.

  - **President's welcome picnic:** Jeff certified the picnic as a sustainable event through a certification program provided by Yale. By using compostable dishware at the picnic, the event can earn a platinum ranking. Ken DeLisa has approved this plan, so long as messaging at the event focuses on Eastern's sustainability. Jeff's pig farmer contact may be able to collect the compost generated at the picnic. If composting cannot be arranged for in enough time, the picnic can be recertified to a gold-level ranking.

**Next Steps:** Jeff and Renee Keech to coordinate waste management for the picnic. ISE interns will assist in informing guests about appropriate waste disposal at the event.
- 3. Green Circle Award and Sierra Club Cool School Rankings (September 6 embargo for Cool School Ranking):** The Hartford Business Journal has released the fall edition of the Connecticut Green Guide, featuring the winners—which includes Eastern's Green Campus Committee—of this year's Green Circle Awards.

  - This year, questions relating to energy and transportation carried more weight in the Cool School rankings. The Sierra Club added questions regarding investment in fossil fuel companies, and fossil fuel divestment strategy.
  - CT results: Eastern is among only 4 Connecticut schools to be recognized by the Sierra Club's Cool Schools, and was ranked 126<sup>th</sup> out of the 201 colleges and universities that made the list.

**Next Steps:** ISE will release press about Eastern's Cool School ranking once the embargo has been lifted.
- 4. Waste and Recycling Updates:** Once per month, ISE interns will perform campus-wide waste audits every day for one entire week. Facilities has renewed Eastern's contract with Willimantic Waste, reducing the amount of bins on campus and saving about another \$10,000. Shellena reported that installation is wrapping up for the recycling signage on the back of dorm suite doors. Observations were made that there were still indoor bins around campus that incorrectly instruct users to separate their recyclables between paper, cans, bottles, etc. Lynn Stoddard said ISE may have enough funds from the University foundation(??) to cover the cost of replacing these bins with ones

that fit better with our mixed recycling message. ISE will reach out to Renee to determine feasibility of this plan.

- **Move in recycling stickers:** Student Orientation Counselor Lauren Polansky helped orchestrate recycling signage for Move-In. Angela Bazin also added recycling bins to the list of items that incoming students should bring to the dorms; this list was emailed out and made available as a brochure.

- **Warrior cup events:** ISE is interested in adding a form of recycling and/or energy competition to the Warrior's Cup lineup, if not this year then next year.

- **RA curriculum:** Housing is open to adding recycling to the RA curriculum in the 2017-18 schoolyear or later, depending on available space. ISE will have to submit to Housing a plan that states the learning objectives of the recycling lesson. In the meantime, a recycling program could be submitted that RAs could present to their residents this year.

**Next Steps:** -ISE to contact housekeeping regarding the amount and locations of separated-recycling bins around campus.

-Laura to maintain contact with Paul Serignese in developing the recycling curriculum for RAs.

-Angela to contact Laura on scheduling for the Warrior's Cup.

-Laura to send informational recycling slides for Angela to circulate in residence hall monitors; Angela to post these in place of the old slides.

**5. Housing Priority Point suggestions:** Housing is welcoming service opportunities that would allow Eastern's resident students to earn Priority Points. Two sustainable opportunities to be submitted are an arboretum cleanup day and a garden cleanup day. There was much discussion about if and how students could earn Priority Points for recycling in their dorms; several ideas came up, as did several challenges in verifying student efforts. While the ideas may or may not be submitted for Priority Points, they could be used to help Eastern measure recycling in the dorms.

**Next Steps:** Laura will submit the finished sustainable service opportunities to Housing by the Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**6. Monitoring Green Parking Spaces Update:** ISE to meet with Eric Germain to discuss the potential of a green parking permit for energy-efficient vehicles.

**7. Green Purchasing Policy Update:** Cindy Hodis and Laura to meet to review the draft policy. The refined version will be presented at the next Green Campus Committee meeting.

## **8. Upcoming Sustainability Events**

### ➤ **Campus Sustainability Week**

\* Currently events scheduled at Eastern include:

- Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> Book Swap event outside ISE from 2-6pm
- Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> CT Airline Trail Walk, 1-2pm
- Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> Food Documentary Showing, visit from Joe Courtney, and Willimantic Co-Op table 7pm – 8pm
- Friday October 7<sup>th</sup> Yale Student presents on Sustainable Development Goals (between 9:00am and Noon)

- Other events are still being organized, and will be announced over email.

For more information contact Laura Miller at [MillerLau@easternct.edu](mailto:MillerLau@easternct.edu)

**Next meeting:** Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00am, Student Center Room 217

Attendees

Angela Bazin – *Housing & Residential Life*

Lucinda Diaz – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Eric Germain – *Environmental Health & Safety*

Cindy Hodis – *Fiscal Affairs*

Jeff Kwolek – *Dining Services*

Jenna Lafleur – *Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE)*

Kathy Martel – *Fiscal Affairs*

Laura Miller – *ISE*

Stephen Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science*

Shellena Pitterson – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Lynn Stoddard – *ISE*

Zachary Stygar – *ISE*