

June 4, 2012

Memorandum

To: Jamie Moffitt, Vice President of Administration
Chris Prosser, Executive Coordinator of the University Senate

From: Peg Gearhart, Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee (EIC)

Subject: Annual Report of the EIC for AY 2011-12

The University of Oregon Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) is a working group of faculty, staff, and students that serves to identify and raise awareness of environmental issues on campus and to recommend University policy addressing these concerns. This year EIC activities included:

- Review of the Green Office Certification program developed by the Office of Sustainability.
- Review of the Student Sustainability Fund Proposal Evaluation. EIC was asked to add to its annual task list review of proposals and funding recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs. EIC recommended inclusion of additional student voice in the evaluation process and the vetting of projects prior to funding. The new Student Sustainability Center took over program management and decided EIC review of proposals would be done on an “as needed” basis.
- Review of the Climate Justice League’s Take Back the Tap policy. Offered suggestions for amendments and recommended that the proposed policy move forward to the senate committee.
- Request of a one-year extension of the assignment of \$8,000 granted by the Student Sustainability Fund to purchase carbon offsets for the EMU. This year only out-of-state offset projects were available. The committee decided to wait a year to see if a feasible offset project in Oregon becomes available.
- Hearing a presentation by Steve Mital on “Next Steps for UO Climate Action Plan ‘Campus as a Living Lab’” which outlines a 2012-13 timeline with the goal of offering opportunities for students to engage in emissions-reducing projects.
- Hearing a presentation about a collaborative project between Facilities Services and Chemistry. Chemistry graduate students Rick Glover and Ed Elliot described their work evaluating green cleaning products and creating a rating system that establishes the risk of a given product which will provide a

framework for the university's purchasing policies and guidelines. The EIC suggested they create a tiered list of chemicals similar to the Integrated Pest Management program. The committee also suggested that they create a section of their list that explains why the products are dangerous.

- Review of an animated video, "Energy Management and Emissions Reduction Planning," produced by the Office of Sustainability. The committee suggested adding resource information and adding an introduction to provide context of UO's signing of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.
- Hearing a presentation about efforts to reduce waste in Athletics and Housing. Bob Beals, Athletics, and Tom Driscoll, Housing, provided details about, recycling, composting, their zero-waste goals, and their work with Food for Lane County to reduce food waste.
- Advising the Climate Justice League on their efforts to revamp the Climate Action Plan. The initiative proposes inclusion of "tangible actions."
- Review of the Climate Action Plan Progress Report developed by the Office of Sustainability.
- Review of the UO Green House Gas emissions summary.

It has been a privilege to serve as chair of the Environmental Issues Committee this year.

Best regards,

Peg Gearhart