*Draft 9-12-14*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHARGES FOR 2014‑15

Alice Mulder, Chair

Shane Schvaneveldt, Liaison

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE (EIC)

***PPM 1-13, Article B-5, Section 4.6: Committee on Environmental Issues***

***The Environmental Issues Committee shall help facilitate the integration of environmental initiatives into academic affairs, student affairs, and facilities management. The committee shall serve as a local and statewide source for scientifically‑based information and for leadership on environmental issues affecting Utah, the Wasatch Front and WSU campus communities***.

1. Continue to work to improve WSU’s STARS application, particularly with regard to the education and research section, with an eye to achieving a SILVER certification in the next three years.

2. Explore expanding the Student Environmental Ambassadors program and the creation of a Faculty/Staff Environmental Ambassadors program, building on the Green Office Certification Program which is in development. (Peer-to-peer education is known to be effective.)

3. Continue to enhance our efforts to find ways to better reach students with sustainability-related curricular offerings and encourage them to take them.

4. Advertise and promote on campus and review and select projects for the 2014-2015 Student Sustainability Research Awards and the Faculty Sustainability Award. EIC would like to investigate the possibility of presenting these awards at college commencements in the Spring semester so that faculty and students would be among their peers when the awards are given. EIC would also like to clarify the award criteria, perhaps creating a new category for faculty course-based or applied sustainability work on campus/in the community, in addition to more traditional sustainability research.

5. Work to build a plan, with partnerships across campus, to reduce WSU’s commuting – related Scope 3 emissions. This will be an important part of the revised Climate Action Plan. Explore ideas for creating under Administrative Services an “Integrated Transportation Management Group” that would help integrate discussions on public transportation, bike commuting, motor vehicle commuting and parking. Parking Services in the future will increasingly be part of any solution to managing the number of cars coming to campus and also part of reducing the overall WSU carbon footprint, and the EIC would like to encourage Parking Services to begin considering how this office could play a role beyond assigning permits, enforcing regulations and so forth.

6. Coordinate with the Center for Community Engaged Learning for the 2014-2015 Engaged Learning Series with the theme “Food Matters” for films/speakers/panel events that the EIC can coordinate and host or partner with other departments and programs to host.

7. Continue work helping to implement the no-smoking zone and idle-free policies (approved in 2013 by the Board of Trustees).

*Continued on back*

8. Pursue the possibility of a university-facilitated community solar project (such as being undertaken by the University of Utah) for Weber/Davis counties, wherein community members are able to install solar panels at a significant cost savings. The university could potentially accrue carbon credits under such a project as well. Overall, this could serve as an excellent base for a community education campaign on alternative energy.

9. Pursue getting an Ogden City sustainability liaison to attend EIC meetings and serve as a point of contact, with the aim of better communication and partnerships between WSU and the city on sustainability matters. (This comes from our session with the mayor at the EIC Sustainability Retreat 2014.)

10. Investigate getting carbon free investment options included within the suite of faculty/staff TIAA-CREF options.

11. Continue to improve our website and newsletter.

12. Improve our communication of sustainability related events/opportunities/issues, possibly through greater use of social media.

13. Explore getting policy recommendations for the university related to green office operations – e.g., Energy Star certified machines, 30%+ recycled paper content.

14. Further work with the Teaching and Learning Forum to bring sustainability awareness into their New Faculty Retreat and other TLF sponsored events, perhaps exploring avenues to raise awareness among adjunct faculty, particularly regarding opportunities for campus-based applied sustainability course work.

15. Work to partner with the Wellness program (both student and staff) to include sustainability-related components/information in their offerings and announcements.

16. Foster the budding relationship with the Ogden LDS Institute to promote and potentially partner on sustainability issues/events relevant to the WSU and wider communities.

17. Review and provide input (to the student Environmental Ambassadors) regarding proposed projects that utilize the $16,000 Student Sustainability Funding for next year.

18. Continue our general efforts to expand partnerships across campus with the WSU Outdoor Program, alumni, student affairs, Community Engagement Center, student organizations, and in the broader community (e.g. Ogden City) to envision and implement sustainability-related initiatives.