

**Faculty Senate, Environmental Issues Committee (EIC)
Annual Report 2022-2023**

Submitted by
Alice Mulder (SPARC Director and EIC Co-Chair) and *Robert Reynolds* (EIC Co-Chair)
June 8, 2023

1) Accomplishments of the EIC:

- Ongoing implementation of “SUS” designation course attribute.
 - Four Zoom drop-in help sessions offered in collaboration with SPARC to walk faculty through the application process.
 - Two application cycles were completed during Fall and Spring Semesters, resulting in the designation of **23 classes**, 10 of which were for all sections of the course regardless of instructor, from six colleges (plus one Honors course). These are the courses which were approved:

Course	Title	Gen Ed?	College	All Sections	Faculty Submitter Last Name
SUS ART 4920	Special Projects (Sustainable Woodblock Printmaking)	no	AH	no	Stevenson
SUS ECON 2020	Principles of Macroeconomics	no	GSBE	no	Rudys
SUS MLS 4410	Interdisciplinary Healthcare Teams	no	HP	yes	Rhees
SUS QUAN 2600	Business Statistics I	no	GSBE	no	Rudys
SUS SOC 1010	Introduction to Sociology	Yes SS	SBS	no	Reynolds
SUS ZOOL 3500	Conservation Biology	no	Science	no	Hoagstrom
SUS ART 3720	Public Art	no	AH	no	Manley
SUS BSAD 3330	Business Ethics and Environmental Responsibility	no	GSBE	no	Thue
SUS CS 1400	Programming I	no	EAST	no	Anderson & Valle
SUS EEN 4420	Renewable Energy Systems Design I	no	EAST	yes	Arif
SUS EEN 4430	Renewable Energy Systems Design II	no	EAST	yes	Arif
SUS EEN 4470	Energy and Environmental Issues	no	EAST	yes	Arif

SUS ENGL 2750	Ecopoetics	yes HU	AH	no	Stott
SUS ENG 3130	Digital Writing Technologies	no	AH	no	Scheidler
SUS GEO 3010	Oceanography and Earth's Systems	no	Science	yes	Tems
SUS GEO 3210	Quaternary Environmental Change	no	Science	yes	Tems
SUS HNRS 3900	Poetry and Printmaking:As Witness for the Land	no	Honors	no	Stott
SUS MBA 6700	Managing for Sustainability	no	GSBE	yes	Schvaneveldt
SUS MET 4500	Senior Project I	no	EAST	yes	Arif
SUS MET4510	Senior Project II	no	EAST	yes	Arif
SUS PSY 1010	Introduction to Psychology	yes SS	SBS	no	Herrmann
SUS PSY 2710	Biopsychology	no	SBS	no	O'Hare
SUS SOC 4410	Sociology of Globalization	no	SBS	yes	Reynolds

- The following events were successfully hosted/supported by EIC:
 - **Utah Climate Week** - organized annually by member organizations of the Utah Climate Action Network (including WSU, a convening member), Sept. 25-Oct.1, 2022. WSU contributions included a campus sustainability tour provided by Justin Owen, WSU Energy Manager; a discussion with Former U.S. Representative Bob Inglis “Market Based Solutions to Addressing Climate Change,” co-hosted with the Walker Institute; and an event called “Volts and Bolts: Auto Tech in the Electric Vehicle Age” organized by WSU’s Automotive Tech. department.
 - Members of the EIC helped in the planning and implementation of the [Intermountain Sustainability Summit](#), which returned to being held in person on March 23-24, following three years online. EIC members served as session moderators and student poster judges. A total of 16 sessions were offered, presented by 37 speakers. The event attracted a total of 391 participants, including 162 WSU students, faculty and staff. Two [workshops](#) were also offered (each with about 30 participants): “Electrification: From a Bird’s Eye View to the Nuts & Bolts” and “Energy Financing: How to Make Your Energy Program a Cash Cow,” both led by Jacob Cain, Director of Operations at WSU and Justin Owen, Energy Manager at WSU.

- EIC members, in collaboration with the SPARC facilitated the WSU participation in the [Worldwide Climate /Justice Teach-In](#), a Solve Climate by 2030 Initiative organized by the Graduate Programs in Sustainability at Bard College in New York. Fifteen WSU faculty from 12 departments presented flash presentations during four, 50-minute sessions on the morning of Wednesday, March 29th. About 140 people attended one or more of the morning sessions which included an effort to identify “next steps” each person could take toward addressing climate change in some way.
- The EIC administered the [Faculty and Student Sustainability Research Awards](#) (two to students and two to faculty) given by SPARC and the Alumni Association.
 - The following faculty were recognized with awards this year (\$1000 each):
 - Carie Frantz (Earth and Environmental Sciences), "Dessication of Ecosystem-Critical Microbialites in the Shrinking Great Salt Lake"
 - Michael Wutz (English), "Reading with the Grain: The Ecologies of *The Lowland*"
 - Student sustainability research awards (\$500 each), sponsored by SPARC and the Alumni Association, were given to:
 - Jack Fernalk (Electrical Engineering major), "Multi-Source Electric Vehicle Charging”
 - Curtis Soderborg (Geography, Environment & Sustainability major), "Mapping Threats to Solitude: The Spatial and Temporal Distribution of the Signs of Human Activity in the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness Area in 2022” (received the Alumni Association funded award)
- At the request of Jenn Bodine (University Sustainability Manager) EIC members reviewed and offered comments on the draft Sustainability Procurement Guidelines prepared by Jenn Bodine and Analeah Vaughn of the Energy and Sustainability Office.
- The EIC also provided feedback to the draft revision of WSU’s Transportation Plan, with a focus on biking and microtransit options.
- The EIC provided feedback to Mark Halverson regarding ideas he shared regarding possible construction of a W on the hill behind campus (discussed in January 2023 meeting).
- EIC members contributed ideas and in some instances articles for the monthly [WSU Sustainability Newsletter](#).
- Some progress was made on increasing the number of SUS designated Gen Ed courses. Three were designated this year, as indicated in the table above. This is a necessary component to implement a proposal that is in development for a sustainability-themed “track” in General Education which could facilitate a future Sustainability Associates

Degree.

- EIC Co-Chairs, Alice Mulder and Rob Reynolds were part of the subcommittee along with Jenn Bodine of ESO to review the Jeanne Evenden Sustainability Scholarship applications for 2023-24 and award the available funds. Two students were nominated to receive funds.
- Various EIC members met with the SPARC Program Review Team on March 1, 2023 to offer feedback regarding the Center and its programs.

2) Number of committee meetings held since August 2022:

EIC members for the 2022-23 year were invited to attend the annual WSU Sustainability Retreat held over two days in May 2022 up in Ogden Valley (four were able to attend: Shellee Dyer, Tariq Arif, Chris Scheidler, and Rob Reynolds). Regular monthly meetings were held 8 times in 2022-23, with smaller subcommittees meeting at other times as needed. All meetings were held in person.

3) Attendance of committee members:

Attendance at full committee meetings was monitored throughout the year. Not all members were able to attend all meetings, as it proved impossible to find a time that worked with everyone's teaching schedules on the committee during both semesters. Student participation from WSUSA assigned members was also poor.

See attached [record of attendance](#).

4) Particular people: —

- **Tariq Arif**, worked personally to get a number of courses in his college to have the SUS attribute. He also served on the SUS Attribute Review Subcommittee and volunteered to judge posters at the Intermountain Sustainability Summit.
- **Shellee Dyer**, chaired the Student & Faculty Research Awards review process and was a regular and active contributor in monthly meetings, judged posters at the ISS and hosted a session.
- **Jesse King**, served as a reviewer both semesters for the SUS attribute proposals and took initiative to encourage SUS attribute proposal submissions from faculty within his college. He was consistently engaged in regular meetings as well, offering ideas and suggestions in discussions, including specifics for the Climate Teach-In event. He also engaged his classes with the Teach-In.
- **Chris Scheidler**, was an enthusiastic and engaged member, who worked on the SUS attribute review, presented in the Climate Teach-In and is getting further into helping with the sustainability teaching efforts on campus (he'll be co-facilitating the SUS Community of Practice in the coming year).

5) Subcommittees or special assignments:

- Subcommittee for the Student & Faculty Sustainability Research Awards - Shellee Dyer (Chair), Julian Chan, Hannah Stedje, David Aguilar-Alvarez, Courtney Craggett.

- Planning and implementation of the Intermountain Sustainability Summit - Alice Mulder, David Aguilar-Alvarez, Rob Reynolds
- ISS Poster Judging - Courtney Craggett, Hannah Stedje, Linnett Wong, Tariq Arif, Shellee Dyer, Jesse King, Julian Chan
- ISS Session Moderator - Shellee Dyer, Hannah Stedje, Jesse King, David Aguilar-Alvarez
- SUS Course Attribute Review Committee - Alice Mulder (chair), Tariq Arif, Julian Chan (fall), Justin Rhees (fall, Hannah Stedje (spring), Chris Scheidler, Jesse King, Linnette Wong, Andrea Easter-Pilcher (spring),
- Worldwide Climate/Justice Teach-In leads- Alice Mulder, Analeah Vaughn (Green Department Coordinator)

6) Charges from this year that should carry forward:

There are many ongoing or standing charges for EIC that should carry forward. These include:

- a) Organize the EIC subcommittee for the *Student & Faculty Sustainability Research Awards*, which is responsible for the advertisement/promotion on campus, judging of submissions, and making awards (sponsored by the SPARC and Alumni Association) during the Spring semester each year.
- b) Contribute to the planning, management, promotion and hosting of events in the campus sustainability speaker/film/discussion series (working with SPARC as the central coordinator), 2-3 events per semester.
- c) Support the SPARC in the planning and implementation of the Intermountain Sustainability Summit. Two to four EIC members will serve on the planning committee for the annual Intermountain Sustainability Summit in March. EIC members also serve as moderators/judges/volunteers on the day of the Summit.
- d) Support efforts to advance the inclusion of sustainability in general education at WSU.
- e) Collaborate with the SPARC in the development and maintenance of content for SPARC's web-based sustainability resource hub for the WSU and wider community.
- f) Continue to support efforts to expand partnerships across campus with various programs/departments, e.g., Wellness, the WSU Outdoor Program, alumni, student affairs, Center for Community Engaged Learning, student organizations, and in the broader community (e.g., Ogden City) to envision and implement sustainability-related initiatives.
- g) Maintain the SUS Attribute Review subcommittee (made up of the faculty director of SPARC/EIC co-chair and one faculty experienced with sustainability

teaching from each college, ideally EIC members) for the review of courses submitted for possible SUS designation.

The charge regarding ensuring the language of new or updated documents is inclusive from the 2022-23 list has not yet been fulfilled and could carry forward to AY24.

From the “Potential special topics/tasks for EIC” mentioned on the 22-23 charges, this one could also carry forward as a possible topic: “Explore support for a mandatory carbon fee/offset related to campus parking, following trial of voluntary option in place for 2022-23.”

7) Recommendations for new charges/possible topics for EIC in 2023-24:

- Explore how to further sustainability and inclusivity (e.g., vegan/gluten free options, etc.) in regular food operations and offerings on campus. [There have been issues with the sustainability initiatives needed for campus STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) not being implemented by the current vendor as per the current contract.]
- Explore the need to propose updates to the campus Transportation Policy, with an eye to fostering more active/alternative transportation to and on campus (consider discussions with/input from the WSUSA, Faculty Senate, SAC, etc.)
- Explore options to support biodiversity on campus (another STARS credit area), possibly through creation of an interdisciplinary Living Lab project

8) Suggestions for new directions to pursue and ways to increase effectiveness

The recommendations above indicate some new areas for EIC to consider. One challenge of the past year has been to find a time that works for the full committee to meet. Has there been success with other committees in having a standing time for meetings from year to year – or at least known in advance of the coming year? If so, that may be something to consider for the future for EIC. But such set scheduling is likely also a challenge, with limitations for accessibility.

APPENDICES

- [2022-23 EIC Meeting Minutes](#)
- [2022-23 EIC Attendance Record](#)