

**Faculty Senate, Environmental Issues Committee (EIC)
Annual Report 2021-2022**

Submitted by
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1) Accomplishments of the EIC:

- Ongoing implementation of “SUS” designation course attribute.
 - Four virtual help sessions held 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 14 classes, 9 of which were for all sections of the course regardless of instructor, from three colleges. These are the courses which were approved:

| Course | Title | Gen Ed? | College | Sections | Faculty Submitter Last Name |
|----------------------|--|---------|---------|------------|-----------------------------|
| SUS-BDC-3000 | Sustainable Building Design & Construction | | EAST | ALL | Farner |
| SUS-BCD-4600 | Senior Project | | EAST | ALL | Farner |
| SUS-CMT-2410 | LEED GA Exam Prep | | EAST | ALL | Farner |
| SUS-ME-4100 | Senior Project 1 | | EAST | ALL | Arif |
| SUS-ME-4200 | Senior Project 2 | | EAST | ALL | Arif |
| SUS-CHEM-1230 | Engineering Chemistry | Yes PS | S | instructor | Burnett |
| SUS-CHEM-3510 | Environmental Chemistry | | S | instructor | Pagonis |
| SUS-BTNY-2750 | Topics in Science and Society: Symbiosis and rewilding | | S | instructor | Root |
| SUS-ANTH-1020 | Biological Anthropology | Yes LS | SBS | ALL | Gautney |
| SUS-HIST-4440 | East European Empires | | SBS | ALL | Romaniello |
| SUS-POLS-2100 | Introduction to International Politics | Yes SS | SBS | ALL | Wolfe |
| SUS-PSY-3000 | Child Psychology | | SBS | instructor | Russell-Stamp |
| SUS-PSY-3460 | Social Psychology | | SBS | instructor | Herrmann |
| SUS-GEOG-1300 | Places and People of the World | Yes SS | SBS | ALL | Bryson |

- With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic limiting the possibility for on-campus gatherings and events during AY2021-22, the number of sustainability-related campus events sponsored and/or supported by the EIC was more limited than in previous years. In spite of these challenges, a number of events were successfully conducted, including the following:
 - **Utah Climate Week** - organized annually by member organizations of the Utah Climate Action Network (including WSU, a convening member), Sept. 26-Oct. 2, 2021. WSU contributions included a session (both in person and virtual options) of the Sustainability Snapshots series focused on Green Buildings presented by Jeremy Farner from Building Design and Construction, and a campus sustainability tour provided by Justin Owen, WSU Energy Manager.
 - Alice Mulder, co-chair and SPARC director, hosted the [Sustainability Snapshot Series](#) in Fall 2021 with weekly presentations by faculty from across campus. A dozen disciplines were represented during the series.
 - Members of the EIC helped in the planning and implementation of the fully online [Intermountain Sustainability Summit](#), March 17-18, 2022. EIC members served as session moderators and student poster judges. For the third year in a row, the Summit was held online due to the pandemic. Registration for the event was 319, with 125 of those from the WSU community. Each of the two keynote webinars had about 90 people in attendance at the live presentation. Recordings of all the sessions and keynotes were available to registrants through April. Overall the event was very well received by participants and presenters alike. [Three workshops](#) were also offered with the following registrants for each workshop: Water-focused workshop (33), Permaculture (30), Sustainability Champion (18).
 - EIC members, in collaboration with SPARC and faculty in Geography, Environment & Sustainability, facilitated the WSU participation in the **Worldwide Teach-In for Climate and Justice**, a Solve Climate by 2030 Initiative organized by the Graduate Programs in Sustainability at Bard College in New York, in conjunction with partners worldwide and the Open Society University Network, with the goal of engaging 1000 communities. Over a dozen WSU faculty from 11 departments presented flash presentations during four, 50-minute sessions on the morning of Wednesday, March 30th. An evening session was also held at Dumke Hall in the Hurst Center: [Worldwide Climate /Justice Teach-In](#). During the morning sessions 43 participants joined via Zoom with an average of 21 attendees in person at each session. The evening session had 15

attendees from both campus and the community all via Zoom.

- EIC members assisted lead organizer Analeah Vaughan, Green Department Program Manager in the WSU Energy and Sustainability Office, in the planning and implementation of the **First Annual WSU Sustainability Awards Event**, which was held on April 21st in the Shepherd Union Ballroom. This new annual event highlights university-wide sustainability accomplishments during the academic year and celebrates students, staff, and faculty who are engaged in sustainability-related activities. Future plans for this event include the recognition of community partners, groups and organizations engaged in sustainability-related efforts.
- 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):
 - Sara Dant (History), "The View from the Top of the World: Climate Change in the West and the World"
 - Bryan Dorsey (Geography, Environment and Sustainability), "Refocusing on Sustainability: Promoting Straw Bale Building for Government-Assisted, Self-Help Housing Programs in Utah and Abroad"
- Student sustainability research awards (\$500 each), sponsored by SPARC and the Alumni Association, were given to:
 - Katelyn Tenney (Economics major), "The Impacts of Fuel Price on Air Quality: A Case Study of Salt Lake City"
 - Chase Noorda and Braden John (Electrical Engineering majors), "Electric Boat Model"
- EIC members contributed ideas and in some instances articles for the monthly [WSU Sustainability Newsletter](#).
- An EIC subcommittee made some progress on increasing the number of SUS designated Gen Ed courses. Four were designated this year, as indicated in the table above, with three of them for all sections regardless of instructor. 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 members Alice Mulder and Mark Stevenson developed and implemented a faculty survey on sustainability-related teaching, research and engagement for WSU's 3-year report for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). This was developed in support of the goal of reaching STARS Gold certification, which is stated in the university's strategic plan which was completed in Spring 2021.

2) Number of committee meetings held since August 2021:

Since the EIC was unable to hold its annual retreat in May 2021 for the second year in a row due to Covid-19 restrictions, a virtual retreat and orientation was held on August 18, 2021. Regular monthly meetings were held 8 times in 2021-22. Fall meetings were initially held in-person with virtual attendance possible, all others were held virtually via Zoom.

3) Attendance of committee members:

Attendance was monitored throughout the year; see attached [record of attendance](#).

4) Particular people:

- **Gavin Roberts** was an active contributor to multiple subcommittees, including as chair of the Student & Faculty Sustainability Research Awards, a member of the SUS Course Attribute Review Committee, and he continued to oversee the ongoing project to develop faculty resources for teaching sustainability using the Canvas platform.
- **Julian Chan** was an active contributor to the SUS Course Attribute Review Committee, and played a leading role in the development of a special task charge undertaken in AY2021-22 to develop the criteria and procedures for a WSU sustainability teaching award, which will be finalized and initiated in AY2022-23.

5) Subcommittees or special assignments:

- Subcommittee for the Student & Faculty Sustainability Research Awards - Tariq Arif, Jim Cohen, Shellee Dyer, Daniel Pyle, Gavin Roberts (chair), Hannah Sledge.
- Planning and implementation of the Intermountain Sustainability Summit - Alice Mulder, Mark Stevenson.
- SUS Course Attribute Review Committee - Alice Mulder (chair), Tariq Arif, Julian Chan, Courtney Craggett, Joanna Gautney, Gavin Roberts, Linnette Wong.
- Development and maintenance of content for SPARC's web-based sustainability resource hub for the WSU and wider community - Gavin Roberts.
- STARS Data Collection/Reporting - Alice Mulder, Mark Stevenson.
- Solve Climate by 2030 Worldwide Teach-In - Alice Mulder, Mark Stevenson

APPENDIX

- [2021-22 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [2021-22 attendance record](#)