

# Carolina Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes      March 10, 2022      Zoom

Council members in attendance were: Mike Piehler (chair), Ileana Fenwick, Elizabeth Havice, Nathaniel Maniatis, Asia Mieczkowska, Jeff Mittelstadt, Jonas Monast, Erin Riggs and Aaron Salzberg.

Student presenters in attendance were: Ben Brown and Ideliya Khismatova.

UNC staff in attendance were Vik Agabekov, Abigail Brewer, Melanie Elliott, Cindy Shea, Steve Wall and Emily Williams.

Attendees: Trey Murphy, UNC student

Chair Mike Piehler began the meeting at 10:00 and welcomed members of the Council. Council members approved minutes from the December 2021 meeting.

## Chair's Report

Piehler began the meeting by introducing Abigail Brewer, the new Communications Specialist for Sustainable Carolina. Piehler complimented Brewer on the impact she was already making in her new role.

Piehler updated the Council on the continued efforts to have Carolina participate in the Green Source Advantage program to procure renewable energy. Piehler stated that the window for this program is closing in August of 2022. Jeff Mittelstadt asked about the possibility of using private funds to pay a premium to participate in the program. Piehler responded that the possibility was being explored but it was unclear if that would be allowed as a solution for participating in GSA.

Piehler mentioned a few other items, including expressing his appreciation for the ongoing involvement of Council members with the Champion Sustainability Fund, noting that the Institute for the Environment is serving as the pilot for the Green Office program and noting the potential for establishing a student Sustainability Stewards program.

Piehler referenced the initial discussions about doing a peer analysis related to Environmental, Social, and Governance goals at other universities. Elizabeth Havice will be assisting with that project.

Piehler concluded his presentation by informing the Council about upcoming announcements related to Earth Day.

## Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee

UNC students and co-chairs of the RESPC, Ben Brown and Ideliya Khismatova, presented background on the work of RESPC. The project began with the implementation of a \$4 student fee for clean energy projects in 2004. The fee was made permanent in 2013. Brown outlined a couple of the major solar installations on campus at the Student Union and Morrison dorm. He noted that a new solar project is under development at the Curtis Media Center and future projects are being evaluated in a feasibility study. Khismatova discussed other recently funding projects, such as partnerships with Edible Campus and the purchase of a new electric bus for Chapel Hill transit.

Piehler asked about the long-term costs of projects during consideration of funding. Havice inquired about efforts to communicate the work being done by RESPC.

### UNC Water Plan

Melanie Elliott briefed the Council on the water plan draft by starting with an overview of the water cycle on campus. She discussed stormwater management practices across the university, including green roofs, permeable pavement and constructed wetlands. She then reviewed data demonstrating a decrease in water us by 31% since 2007.

Elliott detailed some of the goals in the plan, such as reduce the university's water footprint and support water research and education. Finally, she discussed strategies to implement the goals. Piehler noted the partnership with OWASA as the plan evolves. Havice asked about the impacts that led to the downward trend. Erin Riggs noted the connection between long term maintenance in stormwater practices and decision-making. Aaron Salzberg recommended a messaging strategy that focuses on "water that is fit for purpose."

Piehler offered concluding remarks for the meeting and noted that the next Council meeting would be held in April. Piehler adjourned the meeting at 11:00.

The full meeting is available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldCaI2l49Tk>