

# **NYSCHE Steering Committee meeting**

**April 9th, 2018**

**712-775-7031 code 879-644**

In attendance: Mary Ellen Mallia (University at Albany); Melanie Morris (Suffolk County Community College); Ryan McPherson (University of Buffalo); Melissa Cadwell (Syracuse University); Marian Brown (Wells College). Tom Kelly (SUNY Purchase) Absent: Sarah Brylinsky (Cornell)

## **1. Membership report – Melissa**

- No new membership's requests.
- Getting kickbacks from emails from a few Colleges and Universities
  - Kelly Carter no longer at SUNY Canton
  - Jared Woodcock no longer at SUNY Adirondack

## **2. Regional rep report – Mary Ellen**

- Call setup for May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 – every region represented for the first time.
  - If anyone wants to be on the call, contact Mary Ellen and she will forward the invite.
  - It's a chance to find out what's going on in each area, concerns, ideas & feedback.

## **3. Website report – Mary Ellen**

- In progress – no new updates as challenged with intern this semester.
  - Will have a new intern take over this summer.

## **4. Events roundup**

- State of NY Conference update – Focusing in on a theme ( moving in the direction of combining themes)
- The chancellor accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker.
  - Searching for a second speaker to be in closing keynote. Call in the coming weeks
- With the shift to a state wide sustainability conference - Ryan suggested that NYCSHE should play a more proactive role in determining where the next conference is & act as the coordinator for more organization, communication, consistency and guidance for the conference committee.
  - It was suggested to put out an RFP for who should host the next conference.
  - This will be an agenda item for the next meeting to frame and figure out how we want to implement approach.

## **5. External liaison report – Tom**

### **NYCSHE:**

- Working on a revamped website with new pages for resources
- Setting up a subgroup to perform peer reviews for AASHE STARS reporting

### **NYSERDA:**

- Governor Cuomo and Comptroller DiNapoli appointed the first-ever decarbonization advisory panel to shift the NYS Common Retirement Fund investments to cleaner companies and seek out companies capitalizing on new technologies and opportunities.

- NYSERDA honored with the 2018 Energy Star Partner of the Year-Sustained Excellence Award for demonstrating exemplary commitment and dedication to leadership in energy efficiency and the Energy Star program.

#### **Second Nature:**

- 2018 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit occurred on 2/4-2/6 where UC3 was formally announced of the 13 university system coalition to work collaboratively on research that facilitates climate action for local communities, economic development, etc. Research is a unique resource for higher education and a powerful tool to combat climate issues.

#### **AASHE:**

- The Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment was founded in 2017 but went public in March. This was created by 18 universities to promote multidisciplinary academic research on sustainable finance and investment through annual conferences and developing collaboration between researchers across higher education.
- AASHE hiring two interns: resources and education
- AASHE Sustainability Awards are open for submissions through May 11 for sustainability achievements, research advancements and student leadership at higher education institutes.

#### **NYSAR3:**

- Free legislative training session hosted by SWANA and NYSASWM to gain experience with the legislative process in New York State on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Albany, NY (<http://www.nysar3.org/page/legislative-training-session-148.html>)

#### **NYS DEC:**

- NYS Environmental Excellence Awards will accept applications through April 13<sup>th</sup> for innovative and sustainable projects or programs and unique partnerships to contribute to a healthier environment and economy.
  - Ryan noted that the application for this award is very cumbersome on the applicant and hard to apply for. He suggested giving feedback to the DEC under the NYCSHE name regarding this.
- I Love My Park Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>; annual event to bring together volunteers to enhance NY parks, historic sites and public lands
- Governor Cuomo completed the 4/4 Algal Blooms Summits to address harmful algal blooms threatening water quality in NYS lakes and other vulnerable waterbodies. At these summits the local steering committees being to develop tailored action plans to address the blooms and these plans will be used to guide the rest of the state. These plans should be completed by May and supported from the Environmental Protection Fund and the Clean Water Infrastructure Act.

### **6. AASHE report – Sarah**

### **7. SSC report – Ryan**

- SUNY SDG plan update- There was a meeting at ESF a week ago to go over the draft of the SUNY SDG goals.
  - 16 people were in attendance which made for a robust conversation.
  - Working to integrate comments/ language from that meeting into a master frame.

- In the last SUNY facilities update, they mentioned that NYPA was working on the SUNY Sustainability plan. – The hope is to get a draft to SUNY before they go public with that announcement.

## **8. Old business/updates**

- No new updates on the AASHE peer review committee – plan on completing it over the summer & announcing the role out at the annual meeting in June.
- NY Cares update (large scale renewable project) - the letters of intent for phase 1 have gone out to campuses that expressed interest.
  - 30 LOI's were sent out and 20 have been received back so far (mostly SUNY's), the deadline was April 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Hoping to have RFP out relevantly soon
- NYCSHE logo roll out –plan to roll it out at the annual meeting for campuses to use as they wish.

## **9. New business**

- Set annual meeting date and location – Mary Ellen will put out a call for host sites/ dates that work best.
- Steering Committee elections – 3 positions open this year.
  - Mary Ellen will put out a call for nominees.
  - Electronic voting will take place the week before the annual meeting (June).
  - There are currently no term limits for steering committee seats stated in the NYCSHE by- laws (Mary Ellen will double check)
- Next meeting well talk about the State of NY Conference & the annual meeting.
  - Next meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. (Last one of the academic year).

Submitted by: Melanie Morris