

NYCSHE Steering Committee meeting

Minutes - August 8, 2017

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).
Excused: Tom Kelly (SUNY Purchase) Absent: Sarah Brylinsky (Cornell)

Mary Ellen officially welcomed Melanie to her first (?) 2-year term on the Steering Committee. Mary Ellen reminded the group that Ryan, Tom, and Marian all were elected in June to a new 2-year term. Mary Ellen, Sarah and Melissa's terms will expire next year (although we don't have term limits, so all can stand for election again).

Mary Ellen reviewed the steering committee roles:

- Chair – Mary Ellen has held this role since NYCSHE's inception (and this is a lifetime appointment).
- Note taker – Melanie would be willing to take this role on as of the Sept meeting (**yay!**)
- Listserv (Melissa has been handling this role as the listserv is hosted by Syracuse)
- Webmaster (Mary Ellen has been doing these updates with intern assistance)
- Membership form processing (Melissa has been doing this role)
- Event planner (AASHE networking event/State of NY conference table?/NYCSHE annual meeting)
- Webinar organizer/survey implementer (Marian has done a piss-poor job of this!)
- External liaison (Tom K has been keeping track of sustainability-related meetings and learning opportunities hosted by other organizations like APPA, NYSAR3, CURC, and others)
- AASHE liaison (Sarah B has been doing this role as she is also on the AASHE steering committee).
- Communications (other than web, minutes??? This role has also pushed onto the NYCSHE listserv webinars and meeting notices for other groups that come across various listserves)
- Advocacy activities – Mary Ellen noted that we haven't delved into this area as yet

2. Membership report

Melissa reported on the addition of three new members; 1 member left. Melissa has reorganized the membership spreadsheet to keep better track of new members and departing members. This document is on the NYCSHE Google Drive. Melissa will check to see if the Google Drive spreadsheet is feeding the NYCSHE website; it isn't clear if this is happening.

Mary Ellen noted that Lisa Mitten is working on updating the SUNY sustainability contacts. Melissa asked if the SUNY Oneonta position has been filled – it has been posted but no one has heard about a successful hire. Mary Ellen pointed out that Alex Lykins from Union College, who attended the NYCSHE annual meeting in Albany, was named as that institution's new Sustainability Coordinator (**yay!**).

3. Regional rep report

Mary Ellen had nothing to report here, except that Brenda Young from Daemen College agreed to take over for Ryan McP as Western NY regional rep.

4. Website report – Mary Ellen

Lisa Mitten from SUNY New Paltz, the 2016 State of NY Sustainability Conference organizer and host, moved the Conference page under its own tab; conference materials from that conference are still to be uploaded under that tab. Mary Ellen mentioned that other website updates will commence in fall when she hires a new NYCSHE intern.

5. Events report –

- Monday, October 16, 4:45PM., AASHE conference networking event, San Antonio TX
Mary Ellen will lead this event unless the Texas Legislature succeeds in passing its own "bathroom bill", which may necessitate a NYS travel ban to Texas.
- Campus Crunch – October 24 (National Food Day) – register for the event on the SUNY Albany website <http://www.albany.edu/gogreen/4.nycampuscrunch.shtml>

- State of NY Sustainability Conference – SUNY Cortland - Nov 15-16
SUNY will usually have a SUNY sustainability meeting the morning before the event starts.
The call for presentations and posters is open until August 18.
<http://nycshe.org/conference/state-of-new-york-sustainability-conference-2017/>
- Oct. 10 - SUNY Sustainability Leadership Summit – inviting presidents, provosts, and Sustainability leaders at SUNY ESF.

Ryan and Mary Ellen sent the new SUNY Chancellor, Kristina Johnson, a letter introducing the SUNY Sustainability group and NYCSHE; she responded very quickly and very favorably. Her background is in renewable energy (particularly geothermal) so the signals seem to be moving in favorable positions for SUNY embrace of renewable energy technologies and support for campus sustainability writ large.

6. External liaison report

Neither Tom nor Sarah were present so there is no report about other organizations' or AASHE's doings.

7. Communication report

Marian had nothing to report. Following the annual meeting call, she never heard from anyone about their campus' ability to host webinars for NYCSHE. Our O'Brien & Gere contacts stand willing to help out if their expertise is deemed appropriate.

8. Old business/updates

The steering committee discussed the draft NYCSHE mission and bylaws. Mary Ellen had sent the bylaws as revised at the annual meeting to the membership for further review and comment. Mary Ellen asked a question about the current draft Constitution:

Article IX: Amendments

1. The Constitution may be amended by a **two-thirds majority electronic vote** from the Steering Committee members. An amendment may be proposed by any member and must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson. Notice of amendment(s) change must be submitted by the Chairperson to the Steering Committee members at least one calendar week prior to the upcoming meeting.

We discussed this clause and confirmed that amendments may be made by a 2/3s majority of Steering Committee members, not of the entire NYCSHE membership body. We also agreed that the original Constitution draft would be approved by 2/3s of the steering committee members, not of the whole membership. Ryan shared the view that the membership votes for the Steering Committee members and trusts those elected leaders to represent the members' interests to the best of their ability.

We also discussed the proposed language change to the mission statement (see below – changes in red):

The NY Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education (NYCSHE) unites representatives of higher education and supporting organizations with a common interest to promote, sustain and advocate for **(sustainable)** environmental, economic and social **responsibility (development)** as envisioned by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The steering committee agreed that the language of the original version was clear about the intent and less repetitive. The steering committee approved the original version:

The NY Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education (NYCSHE) unites representatives of higher education and supporting organizations with a common interest to promote, sustain and advocate for environmental, economic and social responsibility as envisioned by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Ryan proposed that the steering committee adopt the mission statement and constitution as currently drafted. Mary Ellen will send out the mission and constitution drafts to all steering committee members for official vote.

Mary Ellen provided a debrief on the Large-Scale Renewable Energy workshop, offered by *Second Nature* and *Customer First Renewables* after the NYCSHE Annual Meeting in Albany. Tim Carter, the executive director of Second Nature, who was at the meeting, indicated that the workshop for NYCSHE members was the first that Second Nature had offered – they were very gratified with the turnout. Mary Ellen provided a description of this unique model to procure the benefits of large-scale renewable energy environmental attributes to meet greenhouse gas emissions. The SUNY central Energy Procurement office is quite interested in this model; Tom Kelly is at the moment on a conference call with other SUNY energy and procurement officials to discuss how this system might work. Indu Lnu from SUNY Albany is organizing a group of interested campuses to continue discussions about the potential for aggregated procurement of renewable energy. Perhaps there will be a session on this at the Cortland conference....?

Ryan asked about interest in a general session on renewable energy integration at the SofNY Sustainability Conference. The group agreed that this would be of interest; Ryan will contact other institutions to put together a panel discussion on this and submit an abstract for the conference.

Webinar potentials – Marian still has the long list of possible webinar topics to process.

9. New business - none

Mary Ellen will reach out to schedule the September steering committee call.

Minutes respectfully submitted (hopefully for the last time!!) by: Marian Brown