

NYCSHE Steering Committee meeting

Agenda – Sept 25, 2017

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. Roles for everyone –

- Chair – Mary Ellen
- Note taker – Melanie
- Listserv - Melissa
- Webmaster -NYCSHE intern supervised by Mary Ellen; this fall's intern is Keith Camacho
- Membership form processing - Melissa
- Webinar organizer/survey implementer – Marian
- External liaison -Tom K
- AASHE liaison - Sarah B
- SSC liaison – Ryan
- Advocacy activities – Mary Ellen & Ryan
- Events – open/all

2. Membership report – Melissa

Melissa reported on the addition of five new members.

Mary Ellen referred Robert Lofthouse of SUNY Broome. The Steering Committee made a unanimous decision to accept him into the committee.

3. Regional rep report – Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen had nothing new to report. She will reach out to regional reps at the end of fall semester to check in.

4. Website report – Mary Ellen

- New NYCSHE intern, Keith Camacho, is starting today (9/25/17). He will make tweaks to the website, including being clearer about the affiliation with SSC & AASHE.
- Mary Ellen had a check in call with Crystal from AASHE to see how things were going with affiliation as our one year term is coming to an end.
 - Crystal asked if we are going to renew our affiliation.
- It was discovered that the case study link on the NYCHSE website that linked to AASHE has been deactivated.
 - Keith, the new intern will try and figure out how to get it reestablished.
 - Crystal suggested making a NYCHSE tag on AASHE website to flag items when they come in.
- All of the conference items are live on the website expect SUNY Buffalo, they will be downloaded shortly.

5. Events report

- Ryan asked if there is a conference happening at Cornell in early October? Nobody could confirm.
- **SUNY Senior Leadership Sustainability Summit** – Oct 10 – SUNY ESF - inviting presidents, provosts, and Sustainability leader's .The event seems to mainly be a chance for the new SUNY Chancellor, Kristina Johnson, to deliver her sustainability messaging to SUNY campus leaders.
- **Large scale aggregated renewable workshop** – Oct 13 – University of Albany -Follow up to UAlbany first workshop which was held after the annual meeting. This is a mid-day workshop, lunch will be served. Indu, UAlbany's energy officer, has been sending emails out to interested campuses and to those who went to the initial workshop or call. If anyone is interested in joining this aggregated buy group, please contact either Indu at ilnu@albany.edu or Mary Ellen at mmallia@albany.edu as soon as possible. Recording of webinar - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwS58vOkT8CTOTY0T2xwVmpOUkU/view>
- **AASHE Conference** -Oct 15 -18; NYCSHE meet up Oct 16 at 4:45 pm - San Antonio TX- Ryan, Melissa and Mary Ellen will be in attendance.
- **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 Conference**, SUNY Cortland, Nov 15 and 16 - <http://nycshe.org/conference/state-of-new-york-sustainability-conference-2017/>
- Call for presentations for the **16th Annual New York State Green Building Conference** in the Spring is now open - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2M8MtpGv5bH8kyuUavSBHbNaM9D1_vqi6rhaBZhhvU6h6hQ/viewform
- **Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference** at University of Maryland is not happening this spring.

6. External liaison report – Tom

Tom followed up on a presentation to the SUNY Operational Excellence committee on Thursday about an aggregated renewable energy project, with help from Albany, Binghamton, and Cortland. He mentioned that it is a tough order to do solar individually. He aims to get both SUNY and non SUNY schools together and potentially strike a price for a lower cost collectively and individually. So far, there has been a lot of interest and support from senior leadership at SUNY.

Tom mentioned that the REV Campus Challenge 1 million dollar prize is open through Governor Cuomo's Office.

Ryan reported that the project for which he received the REV campus challenge grant is going well. The transaction cost to get the project off ground and understanding NYSEDA's process and scope of work took longer than intended. Ryan's key learning piece of advice is to put together a proposal that not only gets selected but that is extremely detailed in planning the scope of work. Ryan stated that it took almost a full year of figuring out scope of work.

Lindsey Holle of NYSEDA is moderating a panel at the NY Sustainability Conference in November. Representatives from Bard University, SUNY Broome and Ryan from SUNY Buffalo will sit on the panel to comment on the process. Matt is holding a panel discussion about pricing carbon.

7. AASHE report – Sarah

Mary Ellen mentioned that we have to renew our affiliate status with AASHE, as it was 1 year deal. The Steering Committee was in favor of this.

8. SSC report - Ryan

SUNY Sustainability Coalition. – Ryan mentioned that Landscape at SUNY Central is opening up soon.

Ryan and Mary Ellen sent the new SUNY Chancellor a letter introducing the SUNY Sustainability group and NYCSHE; she responded very quickly and very favorably. They received a response directly from the Chancellor, a meeting is set for next Monday (10/2). Mary Ellen and Ryan are going to meet with her and figure out where she is in terms of sustainability, she has a lot of background in renewables (particularly geothermal). They'll introduce NYCSHE and SSC as projects that are a partner of her/ SUNY. They'll also help frame out the SUNY Senior Leader Sustainability Summit on October 10.

The presentation will be broken down in three ways -

1. How sustainability looks at SUNY & what is the depth of sustainability in her mind? Is it only renewables or broader does she have a broader framework? STARS will be used as a vehicle to tap into that.
2. Context and history – outline the big picture time line, and highlight a few key impact points.
3. Where the Chancellor is looking to go with her vision and goals at SUNY and how we as a group can support that.

Ryan reported that they just finished outline and presentation and will report back on how that goes. He noted that SSC is not as well organized as NYCHSE in terms of governance and structure so they want to engage with SUNY schools when the meeting gets kicked off. There will be a meeting and debriefing at the November conference.

Maryellen said that the Coalitions formed have put us in good position to work with senior leadership at SUNY. The Chancellor highlighted sustainability and environmental protection in her welcome speech.

9. Old business/updates

NYCSHE mission and bylaws – approved unanimously by Steering Committee, will be posted on website soon.

Ryan noted that the bylaws, mission and vision of NYCSHE will be communicated to the Chancellor.

Maryellen brought up the idea of becoming a nonprofit or 501c3, instead of just a group.

Marian said she would avoid going the nonprofit route, she said there is no need to formalize the group any more than we have and it will bring up complications such as paying dues and reporting process.

Ryan said that this is a huge conversation and that he has gone through the process before. Becoming a nonprofit has its pros and cons. The cons being time, patience and money but the pros would be credibility as a group and liability. However, he said that for now the amount of time that it would take could be used more efficiently. If it gets to the point where we are too big to be just a group then we should reevaluate.

How does this come into play for the conference? Depends how you look at it says Ryan. NYCHSE does participate in the conference and a conversation will have to be held about the future. Typically the conference is passed down from SUNY to SUNY. Last year a move to make it open to private institutions gave it more of a NY feel instead of SUNY feel. The conference usually breaks even financially, the Campus who hosts it usually subsidizes some things but the rest pays for itself. However, last year there was a surplus of money from the conference. Marian suggested using the surplus to fund scholarships for students who wish to attend the conference who couldn't otherwise.

There was a ton of interest in new webinars at the annual meeting. Mary Ellen suggested giving it a New York flare so they are not so redundant with other organizations.

*** Please contact Marian if you have webinar hosting capabilities or an idea for an upcoming webinar

10. New business

AASHE has begun exploring whether they could assist in the logistics and planning of conferences and webinars. They are going to send out an official notice about promoting the NY sustainability conference.

At this year's AAHSE networking meetup, Mary Ellen suggested giving an update on where we were last year in terms of REV and renewable energy attributes, talk about aggraded projects and talk about the new SUNY chancellor and her influence in the state

Ryan added that we should discuss how NY is positioning itself to be a climate and renewable energy leader in current world and really think about a positive leadership message with our campuses.

Tom added the topic of resiliency in light of what's happened in Houston and abroad in terms of weather.

Mary Ellen recapped everyone's points and noted that the conversation will take shape depending on the crowd.

The next NYCSHE meeting is at the end of October.

Minutes Submitted by: Melanie Morris.