

Facilities Council Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

3-4PM 3rd Floor Board Room

Present: Eric Smith, Jim Lay, Ethan Beckcom, Jack Thompson, Darryl Watson and Ricky Tompkins

Absent: Debi Buckley, Carol Cooper, and Dale Montgomery

Guests: Ellen Turner, Honor Biology instructor, Dr. Marvin Galloway, Dean of Science and Math, and NWACC honors students, Veronica Garcia-Carvajal, Lynn Reed, Diana Olvera and Phyllis Sluyter

Action Item:

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Land Management plan for the NWACC Living Lab

Ellen Turner along with four honor students presented the Arkansas Heritage Commission Land Management plan for the NWACC outdoor living lab area. The nature area encompasses four different ecosystems, including a savanna which was defined as a unique ecosystem where the Eastern deciduous forest and prairie meet. There are several rare plant species to be studied in this ecosystem. Only a handful of other college and universities have such a unique learning environment on campus as determined by Ms. Turner and her students' research. The plan allows for expert advice on how to maintain and nurture this environment, and allows for outside assistance in implementing and sustaining the ecosystem. We are in no way bound to any limitations with this plan, as it is a living document that can be adjusted at any time due to NWACC internal or external factors. The plan calls for controlled burns and planting to maintain the site. There is no cost associated with the plans implementation except for sees that can be purchased with Dr. Galloway's lab fees. The plan will be managed by science students, the EMPACTS program and community volunteers.

This plan aligns with three of the of the colleges strategic plan s for 2015-2015:

- I. Increase Student Success
- II. Increase Community Outreach and Support
- III. Improve Land and Facilities

The presenters were dismissed and the committee went into executive session to discuss a vote on adoption of the plan.

Ricky Tompkins called for a motion to approve the plan.

Eric Smith seconded the motion.

Jim Lay called the question to approve the proposal.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

The requesters and Public Relations will be notified of the decisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.