

## **Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER at 2:01PM**

**II. [ROLL CALL](#)**

**Present:** Jana Ramos, Yashica Avhad, Maria Moreno, Mojdeh Najafi Zadeh,

**Absent:** Jennifer Sanchez, Evelyn Munoz

**III. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion** to approve the agenda of Sustainability Committee meeting of April 16th, 2025, by **Y. Avadh**, seconded by **M. Zadeh**, **MOTION CARRIED**.

**IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2025**

**Motion** to approve the minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by **Y. Avadh**, seconded by **M. Zadeh**, **MOTION CARRIED**

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.**

No public comment

**VI. UNFINISHED ITEMS:**

No Unfinished Items

**2:42**



VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

- A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:** [Updates on Earth Week Programming](#) (30 mins) The Sustainability Affairs committee will be informed on the updates on Earth Week.

**J. Ramos** provided updates on the finalized programming for Earth Week. She referenced documents previously attached to the agenda, including event flyers, a Sign-up sheet and a budget spreadsheet. She also mentioned that she is collaborating with various campus departments and external partners for the earth week including PAW, CORE Libraries, Office of Sustainability, Hayward Council, ASI Presents, and Pioneer Dining. **J. Ramos** gave a brief of the highlights of the events that include in the EARTH WEEK. For Monday April 21<sup>st</sup>, the event "**Weigh the Waste**" would take place, during which two buckets would be placed in front of the three-bin waste system. Either a student assistant or **J. Ramos** herself would be present to talk to students about Earth Week as part of soft promotional outreach. **J. Ramos** planned to be at the Pioneer Kitchen from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, arriving around 10:30 AM to set up a table with ASI merchandise, pamphlets, and giveaways. She emphasized that this would also serve as a chance to promote ASI and student involvement more broadly. **J. Ramos** mentioned working with Kayla Sarmiento from Pioneer Dining and **Jennifer Sanchez** from the Office of Sustainability. She mentioned that she purchased reusable straws, seed packets for mini-gardens, and stickers. A detailed breakdown of purchases was included in the budget spreadsheet linked in the agenda. She encouraged members of the committee to check the budget, and the sign-up sheet linked in the document to volunteer or simply attend the events. There will be another event on Monday, the "**Campus as a Living Lab**" event would be held, organized by faculty from the Sustainability Department. Five speakers would discuss their areas of expertise from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM in CORE 338. Professor Antonio Alcala, an ethnic studies professor involved with the campus garden near the theater building, would be one of the speakers. The event would be hybrid, offering remote and in-person attendance options. **J. Ramos** noted that while she wasn't organizing that particular event, she would be present to support it and engage with the faculty.

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**J. Ramos** noted that on Tuesday, which is the Earth Day, the campus would be hosting EB JAMBOREE from 11:00PM to 3:00PM on the music building lawn. She explained that the event will include carnival rides, food trucks and a musical performance. **J. Ramos** said that she planned ASI's Earth Day Booth at the Jamboree which would focus on fossil fuel climate issue. She emphasized that the booth will be constructed from the recycled materials including tin cans and cardboard box. The booth would promote the Climate Superfund Act proposed by **Senator Aisha Wahab**. The purpose of the act is to urge legislators to ensure that industries and corporations heavily involved in the use of fossil fuels, or the production of significant carbon emissions are held financially accountable either through a tax or another form of legislation as a means of compensating for their environmental impact. The act also requires a petition to be signed by constituents in support of this initiative.

**J. Ramos** mentioned that the booth would feature petition for students especially for the ones who are local residents to sign in support of the act. **J. Ramos** highlighted that this is an opportunity to tie sustainability to civic engagement and social justice. She also mentioned that she invited the Office of Sustainability to co-table at the event, which will be done by their newly hired student assistant. **J. Ramos** emphasized the goal of revitalizing student engagement in the Office of Sustainability. Later on, the same day, a Sustainable Crafts Workshop would be hosted from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the CORE the exact room is yet to be confirmed Library ambassador Aurelia would lead the event, inviting students to bring their own tote bags for decoration, while promoting reduced plastic usage. **J. Ramos** stated she was responsible for procuring tote bags and decorative pins, while CORE would provide snacks and drinks.

On Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the **Green Resource Fair** would take place from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM on the Meiklejohn Walkway. A number of organizations are set to participate which include: Hayward Area Recreation and Parks, GREIF, The City of Hayward whose main purpose for tabling is doing more environmental conservation in the city, Waste Management of Alameda, RAW, Eden Youth, Parking and Alternative Transportation Services, The Office of Sustainability & ASI. **J. Ramos** highlights that this is an opportunity for students to engage with these organizations and also give an opportunity for the sustainability managers Jennifer Sanchez, and also Evelyn Munoz will be able to be more

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engage with Earth Week, especially since Miss Jennifer who lives in Sacramento and doesn't get much of a chance to engage on campus. **J. Ramos** mentions that she has requested for snacks and water and said that the event will have a passport system which will help the students to engage with all the organizations and to win the giveaway.

The **Eduardo de la Cruz Garden Tour** and Workday was scheduled from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. The first session from 2:00 to 3:15 PM would involve hands-on gardening, followed by a drumming workshop and jam session from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. **J. Ramos** noted the importance of highlighting both **Professor Alcalá's** work and the arts department amid ongoing budget cuts. She coordinated this event with both Professor Alcalá and Professor Eric.

On Thursday, we have Earth Week Pause for Paws. This is a collaboration with the Director of Wellness, **G. Villegas**. It will be taking place at RAW PLAZA from 11:30AM TO 1:30PM. **J. Ramos** briefed the committee members about what Pause for PAWS is where few organizations participate and bring their dogs. She mentioned that these events are wellness centered. She mentioned that this month they wanted to do it sustainability centered but **J. Ramos** came up with an idea to address issues college students are facing like climate anxiety where the students could talk to counselors. She mentioned that the advisors for this event would be **Janice Bulayo, Ashley Depappa & Germione Villegas**. She mentioned that for giveaways, they'll be doing WE CARE packages which will be having Aromatherapy oils, Tea bags, like chamomile and lavender, Metal straws, Wool dryer balls and All-natural soaps and lotions. **J. Ramos** also mentioned that **Germione Villegas** will also be purchasing necessary items for the event. That same day, the "**Walk the Walk - Ohlone Walkway Tour**" would take place from 12:15PM to 1:10 PM at the CORE Plaza. **J. Ramos** says that she collaborated with **Professor Linda Dobb, Dr. Enrique Salomon**. The event would include a recap of last year's prototype and unveil a commemorative stone sourced from Calistoga, featuring Indigenous signage and plans for QR codes at each native plant. Each plant is quite important in recognizing indigenous culture, especially since nature is such an impactful part of how their lifestyle is. She also mentions how till today many tribal members live using ancestral plants that they have using for generations and they integrate it into their holistic lifestyle. The tour would include special guests such as **President Kathy Sandeen** and other special guests.

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**J. Ramos** also informed the committee members that **The Greek Life Campus Cleanup** event for Friday, but it remained tentative and is not included in the flyer. For Saturday, a confirmed community cleanup and fair would be held at Weekes Park from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM for which **J. Ramos** plan to attend with another ASI representative for outreach and local students and families. Lastly, a week-long art exhibit titled “**Waste and Leftover Slab**” would showcase sustainability-themed art by **Professor Kosia**’s class. The exhibit would be located on the second floor of the CORE, near the library administration offices.

27:10

**B. DISCUSSION ITEM:** [Support for the Edgardo Dela Cruz Campus Garden](#) (5 mins) The Sustainability Affairs Committee will discuss the possible areas of support for the Edgardo Dela Cruz Garden on campus.

**J. Ramos** discussed potential areas of support for the Edgardo de la Cruz Garden, which is the same site planned for an upcoming garden tour during earth week. **J. Ramos** shared that they had spoken with **Professor Alcalá**, who noted that while students occasionally visit the garden, it remains relatively unknown on campus. The garden hosts workdays where students can participate in composting and other maintenance activities, and the upcoming event is expected to follow a similar format. **J. Ramos** expressed interest in fostering a more engaged campus community around the garden, drawing inspiration from other CSU campuses like Bakersfield and Fresno. At those universities, community gardens allow students to help maintain the space and, in return, harvest produce for free, creating a self-sustaining ecosystem of student involvement and benefit. **J. Ramos** invited committee members to share their ideas for developing an edible garden that could launch in the upcoming semester. She mentioned that the vision included planting a variety of edible plants that could be shared with the student body. A comparison was made to the Concord campus, which features an edible garden centered around native plants. That garden had previously supported the Ohlone Café, located in Berkeley, which focuses on indigenous food. **J. Ramos** also discussed the possibility of using the garden to support the campus community directly, such as through collaboration with organizations like the Hope Pantry, which already provides students with fresh produce.

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30:20

**C. DISCUSSION ITEM:** [Sustainability Minor Promotion Ideas](#) (10 mins)

The Sustainability Affairs Committee will discuss ideas on promoting the Sustainability Minor on campus.

**J. Ramos** shared document that outlined current program details and posed several guiding questions to the committee. These included what information students need to know, how to promote the Sustainability minor more effectively, alternative ways to assist students in enrolling aside from advising or faculty meetings, key contacts for outreach, and the primary needs to be identified. **J. Ramos** emphasized the importance of long-term promotional strategies, noting that academic programs are evaluated annually based on student engagement and enrollment. Without increased visibility and interest, there is a risk that the sustainability minor could be reduced or restructured. **J. Ramos** mentioned that the Environmental Studies major had been merged with another program, and similar changes had occurred in Geography. While the minor may not be removed entirely, the availability of faculty and course content could change over time.

**M. Moreno** shared her insights as a environmental Science major, She mentioned that she had a class with professor Antonio who said many classes were being combined due to funding shortages. That was likely the reason for some class removals. She suggested that meeting with a counselor was helpful, as many counselors were not well informed.

**J. Ramos** also asked if she noticed any changes in class content to which **M. Moreno** mentioned that many classes were a combination of social justice, history, and heavy writing- essentially social sciences. **J. Ramos** also shared her experience in class named “Argument and Sustainability”, though the course was categorized as a sustainability course, it was largely a writing course with some sustainability aspects and a heavy emphasis on social justice content. **J. Ramos** mentioned that in a positive aspect, as many students

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associate Environmental Studies or Environmental Science with just earth science or ecological topics, and don't always recognize the broader social justice aspects or the skills these classes develop-such as writing, learning through case studies, and critical thinking. **J. Ramos** also suggested that the minor could be promoted at more events like Al Fresco where the representatives from the minor attend events like Welcome Day, they often lose visibility afterward. **J. Ramos** also mentioned that with the discontinuation of GS classes, another potential opportunity was lost. It was mentioned that it would have been beneficial if departments were able to visit first-year and transfer seminars to speak directly to students. **J. Ramos** stated that she serves on a faculty committee in which she represents ASI. She noted that one of the key discussions within the committee centers on the challenges of effectively supporting students, a concern that she indicated is also prevalent across various academic courses.

**Y. Avadh** shared her thoughts on the sustainability minor, stating that ASI has a powerful platform to advertise the minor and motivate more students to enroll. She acknowledged that while advertising is crucial, the real challenge lies in determining the most effective methods to reach students and ensure continued engagement. **J. Ramos** acknowledged that while advertising is crucial, the real challenge lies in determining the most effective methods to reach students and ensure continued engagement.

**M. Zadeh** raised concern on campus, particularly the use of plastic bags and wasteful receipts pointed out that many campuses food vendors-though not necessarily the bookstore use plastic bags and waste-colored receipt paper, raising questions about how to address this issue **M. Zadeh** suggested options such as distributing flyers, informal conversations, or sending formal emails to encourage vendors to reduce plastic and paper waste. In response, a committee member noted that food franchises on campus have begun transitioning to more sustainable practices, such as replacing traditional plastic utensils with biodegradable sporks and reducing plastic straw usage. However, concern remained regarding the bookstore, as it operates independently from the university and simply rents space on campus. **J. Ramos** suggested that there are multiple avenues for committee members to get involved beyond the committee, such as through the Office of Sustainability, which employs student assistants, or by engaging with broader sustainability initiatives in their current roles. She

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also said that she can involve Jennifer, who might have the authority to influence the bookstore's practices, with a month left in the semester, there was still time to take action or at least lay the groundwork for future changes. The conversation concluded with a proposal to digitize receipts, similar to options available at cafes where customers can choose between printed receipts, email, text, or opting out altogether.

42:17

**D. DISCUSSION ITEM:** Open space for Ideas and Comments (5 mins)

The Sustainability Affairs Committee will discuss any ideas or topics regarding Sustainability on campus.

**J. Ramos** asks the committee members to share their views and ideas how students can be encouraged to be more environmentally conscious. **M. Moreno** shares that the students should be encouraged to use public transport often especially these days with increased number of student drivers and cars to which **J. Ramos** agrees and shares that don't drive to campus and use the public transport as she doesn't see the need to drive. **J. Ramos** mentioned that one of the main reason students avoid public transport is because it's sometimes unreliable, the shuttles are either late or leave early or they do not notify students prior regarding the switching of shuttles. One solution they provide is to use the AC Transit app rather than contracting another bus.

**Y. Avadh** also says that other than transport other ways to be more sustainable is digitizing receipts in all on campus stores. **Y. Avadh** also shares that related to food safety and handling in the context of sustainability, suggesting that the use of reusable plates and dishwashers similar to the system in place at the Pioneer Kitchen could be a more sustainable alternative if implemented by campus restaurants. She also acknowledges that the associated costs of installing dishwashers and hiring the necessary labor would be significant and potentially prohibitive. **Y. Avadh** shared these thoughts as part of her observations on the considerable waste generated around food, including both the food itself and the materials used to serve it, noting that food waste is likely one of the largest contributors to overall campus waste. **J. Ramos** mentioned that she inquired about the possibility of introducing reusable metal

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utensils and plastic plates, like those used in Pioneer Kitchen. However, she was informed that implementing the required infrastructure - such as dishwashing systems or collection areas for used plates was not currently feasible in the Old Union or New Union buildings.

48:00

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

No Special Reports

IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

**J. Ramos** addressed the committee informing them that this meeting would be the second-to-last, as their Executive Director had confirmed that the final committee meeting would take place on April 30th. She reminded **everyone** about the opportunity to participate in Earth Week, noting that a sign-up sheet was embedded in the meeting agenda and that she might resend it for convenience. Additionally, she mentioned a separate sign-up sheet for the EB Jamboree, where members could volunteer their time. **J. Ramos** also encouraged members to assist with the promotion of Earth Week events by distributing flyers and helping to spread the word. She asked members to follow and share content from the CSUEB ASI Instagram account, suggesting they repost stories or inform classmates about upcoming events. She emphasized the value of these activities, highlighting their benefits for both personal and professional development. **J. Ramos** concluded her remarks by thanking the committee and stating that she had no further updates for the roundtable. **Y. Avadh** commended J. Ramos for her efforts in organizing Earth Week, stating that she was doing a really good job and acknowledging the strength of the initiatives she had undertaken. **Y. Avadh** emphasized that coordinating such an event involved a lot of work and expressed appreciation for **J. Ramos's** dedication. In response, **J. Ramos** noted that while it took some time to put everything together, she was glad that it all eventually came together successfully.

49:30

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X. ADJOURNMENT at 2:50PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

**Chair/Director of Sustainability:**

Dane Lopez

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Daniel Kristofferson Lopez (Nov 10, 2025 12:33:46 PST)

Minutes approved on:

**10/30/2025**

Date

