

**Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - December 04th, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER at 3:49PM**

- II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - We would like to recognize that while we gather at California State University East Bay located in Hayward, CA, we are gathered on the ethno-historic tribal territory of the intermarried Jalquin (hal-keen) / Yrgin (eer-gen) Chochenyo-Ohlone-speaking tribal group, who were the direct ancestors of some of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, and who were missionized into Missions San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Jose.**

**It is important that we not only recognize the history of the land of the Jalquin/Yrgin on which we gather to learn and participate, but also recognize that the First People of this region – the Muwekma Ohlone People, are alive and thriving members of the Hayward and broader Bay Area communities today.**

**It is of great importance to acknowledge the significance of this Holše Warep (hol-sheh wah-rehp) ~ Beautiful Land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone People of this region. We ask everyone who attends or visits Cal State University East Bay in Hayward, to be respectful of the aboriginal lands of the Muwekma Ohlone People, and consistent with their principles of community and diversity strive to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, on whose land you are their guests.**

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Daniel Kristofferson Lopez, David Teng, Mukul Dhawan, Kartik Tripathi

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

**Motion to approve the Agenda of Sustainability Committee Meeting of December 4th, 2025 by D. Teng, seconded by D. Teng, MOTION CARRIED.**



**V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of October 30th, 2026**

Motion to approve the Minutes of Sustainability Committee Meeting of October 30th, 2025 by **D. Teng**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED**.

**VI. 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 Comments

**04:44**

**VII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:**

**A. DISCUSSION ITEM - Water Filtration Resolution (5 minutes)**

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the progress of the Water Filtration Resolution.

**D. Lopez** reported that he had been researching how other CSU campuses addressed the Water Filtration Resolution, noting that the issue had previously affected SFSU, CSUSM, and CSULB. Those campuses had since implemented improved water quality systems. He emphasized the need for a campus-wide assessment of existing water fixtures. **D. Lopez** noted that during a recent visit to the RAW, he saw that the water fountains were functioning again, but he believed the outdoor green fountains remained out of service. He stated that while facilities could be consulted, he preferred to begin with a student survey and asked about its progress. After **D. Teng** indicated that nothing had been started, **D. Lopez** offered to help initiate the process. He outlined his intention to identify ways to reinvest in updated filtration systems, particularly touchless water bottle filling stations, citing health concerns related to traditional drinking fountains. He highlighted gaps in certain buildings such as the art building and hoped to ensure that each college building would have at least two accessible hydration stations. **D. Lopez** added that he planned to contact campus administration and also reach out to sustainability and environmental science leads from SFSU and CSUSM to learn from their implementation models. He noted that those campuses completed their programs by 2021, with CSUSM launching a campus-wide campaign to eliminate plastic bottles. He suggested that their campus



consider phasing out metal bottles as well. Referring to the resolution at hand, **D. Lopez** mentioned that there were seven key action points he intended to address. He proposed incorporating a brief hydration education segment into the upcoming green classroom visits and expressed interest in providing refillable water bottles to a small group of students. These visits would also include distributing the survey to gather feedback on water quality and placement of hydration stations. **D. Lopez** concluded by stating that preliminary work had already begun. The next steps included obtaining administrative approval and coordinating with facilities. He indicated that either **D. Teng, Mukul**, or a future committee member would assist with these tasks moving forward.

12:15

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Updates from Sustainability Affairs Committee (5 minutes)**

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the updates from the sustainability affairs committee on campus.

**D. Lopez** informed the committee that members were welcome to attend the monthly sustainability meetings, typically held on the first Monday of each month. He shared a brief summary of recent discussions, noting that the committee was currently seeking a secretary. Although he was unsure whether the role required an environmental science major, he encouraged interested members particularly **Mukul** and **D. Teng** working closely with sustainability efforts to consider applying. He added that participation would offer more direct collaboration with Earth Week planning alongside himself and **Jennifer Sanchez**.

**D. Lopez** reported that the committee had recently discussed classroom temperature issues. Students had raised concerns about classrooms being too warm or too cold, prompting the committee to assess how widespread the problem was. He expressed interest in speaking with the committee about the potential energy impact of upgrading heating and cooling systems, noting that new HVAC units could significantly increase power consumption.



He then described the ASI policy statement under development regarding AI usage in coursework. The goal, he explained, was not to eliminate AI but to reduce heavy reliance on it, given the environmental cost of AI outputs particularly the substantial water consumption associated with generating responses. With thousands of students using AI, the cumulative environmental impact was considerable. **D. Lopez** stated that the draft resolution had been shared with faculty and deans and was awaiting review before potential implementation next semester. He mentioned he had prepared his own ASI-specific draft, which he was willing to share, and asked for feedback on areas for improvement or points he could raise with **Jennifer** or **Evelyn** at their monthly meetings. **D. Lopez** also emphasized that AI models can demonstrate bias and discrimination, which raises civil rights concerns. He reiterated the importance of addressing both the environmental and ethical implications in future policy development.

Turning to Earth Week, **D. Lopez** reported ongoing planning efforts. He noted the event is a five-day program involving tabling, workshops, and educational activities focused on sustainability. The committee was concerned about limited funding, and Lopez mentioned he had \$200 remaining from his ASI budget that he might be able to contribute. He asked committee members for suggestions on workshops or events they would like to include, particularly those addressing electricity and water conservation, which he felt should be the focus this year following earlier discussions on waste management. He explained that Earth Week is a collaborative effort between ASI, external environmental organizations, and the campus Committee on Sustainability. He offered to introduce committee members to the sustainability team, noting that the current president is **Jennifer Sanchez** and that he could provide her contact information for anyone interested in getting more involved.

In response to a question from **D. Teng** about whether Earth Week was solely an ASI initiative, **D. Lopez** clarified that it was a partnership among several groups. **D. Teng** suggested incorporating presentations or lectures to streamline the event. **D. Lopez** responded positively, indicating that the idea sounded good and could be integrated into planning.



23:30

**B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - INFO 310W Survey**

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the survey being conducted by sustainability.

**D. Lopez** presented a flyer to the committee and explained that it related to a new survey designed to assess how climate change is affecting the campus. He noted that the effort appeared to be coordinated with the Committee on Sustainability, as their goals aligned, but clarified that this was a completely different survey from the one previously discussed. Lopez strongly encouraged members to participate and emphasized that the purpose of the survey was to gather student data that could be shared with the Committee on Sustainability to guide future actions. He added that once he shared the flyer with both **D. Teng** and **Mukul**, the committee could consider different methods of promoting it such as conducting a small online campaign, printing and distributing physical flyers, or exploring other outreach options. While email was a possibility, **D. Lopez** expressed uncertainty about how frequently students check their inboxes for event-related information.

**D. Teng** suggested that campus email might actually be more effective than social media, noting that many students may not follow ASI or sustainability-related Instagram accounts. He felt the official student email system could reach a broader audience.

**D. Lopez** agreed that a mixed approach could be beneficial and said the committee could discuss distribution strategies further. He added that since social media had been brought up, the committee should consider creating a dedicated Sustainability Committee Instagram page to highlight ongoing projects and share progress with students.

29:15

**C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Roman Alcala Garden Support**

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the updates for the garden with professor Alcala.



**D. Lopez** explained that although he had not yet received updates from the faculty member overseeing the campus garden who was likely finishing his semester, he had begun researching potential plants that could be incorporated into a broader campus initiative. He clarified that his vision extended beyond the existing garden, aiming to explore options suitable for the East Bay region. **D. Lopez** expressed interest in eventually transforming the current garden into a vegetation-based space that could support housing-insecure or low-income students by providing easy access to fresh produce such as carrots, beans, and other vegetables. While he acknowledged that such a project would take time, he emphasized that it could become a sustainable, long-term resource. He also shared a preliminary list of plants that could be introduced on campus, noting that while he had included trees like oaks, planting trees was optional. Those would be considered only if the university wished to increase greenery and reduce carbon emissions.

**D. Teng** agreed that planting trees might be simpler to manage than establishing a full vegetable garden. He noted that running a free produce program could be complicated and labor-intensive, whereas increasing tree coverage would still support sustainability goals with less operational strain.

**D. Lopez** acknowledged that creating a vegetation garden would indeed be more complex. Given the short timeline of the academic year, he stated that the project was not expected to be completed immediately but could instead evolve into a five-year initiative. He mentioned having peers and allies who could potentially support the effort.

**D. Teng** suggested that if the vegetable garden did move forward, the process might involve planting fruit-bearing trees or crops that could be harvested and distributed to students at no cost, which he viewed as more manageable.

**D. Lopez** responded that maintenance might already be partially in place, as the current garden is supported by faculty and student involvement. He suggested that reaching out to additional environmental science professors could provide extra support. Depending on their availability and interest, the committee could either work toward establishing a functional garden or adopt **D. Teng's** idea of harvesting and distributing produce directly to students, which could reduce the burden on those maintaining the space.



32:26

**D. DISCUSSION ITEM - Classroom Green Visits (5 minutes)**

The sustainability committee shall discuss the potential Classroom Green Visits.

**D. Lopez** asked what ideas had been considered so far, noting that the suggestions did not need to be extensive, and inquired about what should be communicated to upcoming students—freshmen or current sophomores—regarding sustainability.

**D. Teng** responded that he did not yet have a clear understanding of what the classroom green visit entailed.

**D. Lopez** clarified that, in a previous meeting, the committee had discussed visiting GE classrooms, briefly checking in, and sharing information. He asked Teng for his thoughts.

**D. Teng** suggested that collaboration with GE classes could make the process easier, as professors might already assign small sustainability-related projects. He explained that the committee could offer feedback, act as referees, or evaluate project competitions to identify groups with strong potential in sustainability presentations or projects.

**D. Lopez** then asked if **D. Teng** had any more specific ideas.

**D. Teng** replied that he was unsure of which GE courses the university would offer this semester or next.

**D. Lopez** explained that he envisioned promoting the ASI Sustainability Committee, but also hoped to explore external partnerships possibly with a local environmental science or environmental advocacy organization. He mentioned that Hayward has such an organization connected to the city's council or local office. He expressed willingness to build a collaboration that would support conversations about sustainability, allow guest speakers to visit classrooms, and inform students about how they could contribute not only to CSUEB but also to the city of Hayward.



**D. Teng** agreed and added that offering a free lecture within GE classes could be the most effective approach, as students might be more inclined to listen, and the format would be convenient for professors.

**D. Lopez** shared that, during his own freshman year, similar brief presentations were given in SOAR classrooms, where ASI representatives spoke for about ten minutes before leaving. He said that method successfully increased awareness and that he hoped to implement the same approach again.

**35:40**

- E. **DISCUSSION ITEM - Open space for Ideas and Comments (5 mins)**  
The Sustainability Affairs Committee will discuss any ideas or topics regarding Sustainability on campus.

**D. Lopez** shares a preliminary idea for a “welcome back” sustainability tabling event during the first week of spring. He proposes two short tabling sessions on separate days (about one hour each), where the committee would distribute small “sustainability kits” to students. These kits could include:

- A note card with simple tips on how to live more sustainably day-to-day.
- Reusable wooden utensils (spoons and forks).
- Reusable metal straws.
- Potentially reusable or more eco-friendly toothbrush and toothpaste options.

He asks whether members would be interested in helping with the event. **D. Teng** says he might not be available for both days but would be willing to assist for one of the tabling sessions.

**D. Lopez** also introduces an upcoming collaboration opportunity with UC Santa Barbara. He explains that their environmental science team has reached out about implementing **laundry detergent dispenser systems** in housing areas at CSU East Bay. The goal is to reduce plastic waste and lower costs for students by providing detergent through centralized dispensers. He notes that, based on his initial conversation with Leo Brown (Environmental Science lead at UCSB), the proposed



model could add approximately **\$10 per semester** to students' housing charges as a one-time fee, in exchange for ongoing access to detergent through the dispensers. Students would still have free access to washing machines, as they currently do.

**D. Teng** points out that many student residents already use Flex Dollars at the campus market to purchase detergent, and that the market offers refill-style options that reduce plastic usage. He questions whether there is broad student demand for an additional detergent subscription and suggests comparing the costs and benefits carefully.

**D. Lopez** agrees that these are important considerations and clarifies that the program is particularly aimed at supporting low-income and first-generation students, for whom recurring purchases can be financially burdensome. He adds that the dispensers would be stocked with products designed to reduce packaging waste compared to traditional plastic bottles.

He states that he will gather more information during a scheduled call with the CEO and Leo on the 8th and plans to conduct a student survey to gauge willingness to pay a small additional housing fee for dispenser access. The committee will revisit the topic after more data is collected.

40:13

## IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

### A. STARS Report – Setup

**D. Lopez** reports that he has not yet received a new update from Jennifer Sanchez regarding the STARS report but notes that work is continuing. He explains that the committee is using a sustainability rubric to evaluate campus performance and that CSU East Bay has previously achieved Silver status. The long-term goal is to reach Gold.

He briefly shares a visual of the badge and rubric used to assess progress. A member raises an issue regarding missed ASI agenda emails; **D. Lopez** acknowledges the



concern and notes that follow-up will be needed to ensure all committee members receive necessary communications.

44:23

**X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS**

**D. Lopez** thanks committee members for their patience and flexibility, acknowledging that the meeting schedule had been delayed earlier in the semester due to conflicts.

He notes that he has been informed that payment matters for committee work are expected to be addressed by the end of the semester. One member mentions having already updated their banking information in the university system.

**D. Lopez** also shares that the committee is in the process of welcoming a new Sustainability Committee member and encourages members to spread the word to students who are passionate about sustainability. He mentions that he has one student lined up for an interview and is eager to see more interest so the committee can select the best fit for the role.

45:55

**XI. ADJOURNMENT at 4:35 PM**

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

**Chair/Director of Sustainability:**

Daniel Kristofferson Lopez

Minutes approved on:

**02-26-26**

Date:

