Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, October 30th, 2025

I.   **CALL TO ORDER at 3:45 PM**

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, Mukhul Dhawan, Kartik Tripathi
Absent: -

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

Motion to appoint **M. Dhawan** as vice chair for Sustainability Committee Meeting on October 30th, 2025, by **M. Dhawan**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

V.   **ACTION ITEM** - **Approval of the [Minutes of, April 16th 2025](#)**

Motion to approve the minutes of Sustainability Committee Meeting of April 16th, 2025, by **M. Dhawan**, 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.

VII.   **UNFINISHED ITEMS:**
No Unfinished Items.

VIII.   **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

   A. **INFORMATIONAL   ITEM -** [Updates from Sustainability Affairs Committee (10 minutes)](#)
      The sustainability committee shall be informed on the updates from the sustainability affairs committee on campus.

      D. Lopez shared that he had attended a campus sustainability meeting earlier in the week and offered to invite others to join future sessions, noting that only they had been copied on the communication. He mentioned that the committee was in need of a secretary and encouraged anyone interested to volunteer, explaining that such a role would help with coordination between ASI and the sustainability group. **D. Lopez** explained that AI adoption on campus was accelerating rapidly, but expressed personal concern that it might not be a positive development. Referring to the draft policy, they highlighted a section emphasizing that the use of generative AI tools could negatively affect student learning outcomes and undermine the university's role in promoting sustainable education. He elaborated that the policy aimed to examine how AI could either be integrated responsibly or avoided altogether to promote sustainability. They noted that AI technologies consume significant energy and may have environmental impacts, which the campus was seeking to mitigate. The resolution proposed prioritizing tools and methods with lower environmental impact when alternatives to AI exist. **D. Lopez** concluded by asking the group for their input on possible strategies or

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initiatives that could be implemented to address sustainability concerns on campus without relying heavily on AI.

M. Dhawan expressed concern about the university's integration of ChatGPT into its system, stating that the rollout was too subtle and lacked sufficient oversight. He pointed out that the university's provision of premium ChatGPT access to students had led to instances of inappropriate use. He emphasized that such usage was not advisable and recommended that access to the tool be more limited and controlled.

D. Teng inquired about possible solutions to address the carbon emissions produced by AI technologies. He found the topic intriguing, especially considering the scale of major AI companies, and asked what could be done to make their operations more sustainable for the community.

06:37

D. Lopez clarified that ChatGPT was mentioned merely as an example and that the concern extended to other AI tools being adopted on campus. He referenced a section of the draft AI policy statement, which encourages faculty and university members to consider the environmental impact of AI when using such tools for teaching, research, or administrative purposes. He further explained that many professors had begun integrating AI into their course curricula, which made it important to explore and promote non-AI alternatives. He suggested that the committee attend the upcoming sustainability meeting on November 10th to brainstorm potential solutions and provide ideas that could be shared with the policy group.

M. Dhawan expressed concern that students might hold a biased perspective regarding the use of AI tools, as many rely on them for personal convenience and academic needs. He doubted that students would be fully supportive of limiting AI usage, noting that most are unaware of the environmental consequences tied to the technology. He emphasized that AI systems consume significant amounts of energy, much of which comes from non-renewable fossil fuels resources that are finite and increasingly strained.

D. Lopez presented the current draft of the campus AI policy, noting that it was still in progress and required further revision. He explained that the document contained numerous statistics, including one stating that AI already accounts for about 4% of electricity usage in the U.S., a figure projected to triple in the coming years. He expressed concern that continuing to expand AI usage on campus could worsen environmental impacts.

M. Dhawan added that this percentage might rise even faster than anticipated due to the rapid growth of AI technology.

10:25

D. Lopez agreed, mentioning that the data cited was from the previous year and needed to be updated. He suggested collaborating with **Jennifer** to refine the policy and asked if others were willing to assist, to which the group agreed. He noted that previous meetings had mostly included faculty members, with minimal student representation, and emphasized the importance of incorporating student perspectives to ensure their experiences with AI were considered. **D. Lopez** concluded by summarizing the policy's intent: the Academic Senate was being asked to consider and accept the proposed AI resolution. The policy also recommended that lengthy documents or bundles include a concise 100-word summary explaining their relevance, scope, and priority. He stated that the Sustainability Committee aimed to bring this resolution to the Academic Senate's attention so the university could fully examine the environmental consequences of widespread AI adoption on campus.

D. Lopez informed the group that Earth Week, a week-long spring event centered on sustainability, was being planned to promote environmentally friendly practices and raise student awareness about sustainable living. He explained that the event would take place along the campus walkway and would feature multiple tables and activities. He offered to share the event details so that the group could contribute ideas, emphasizing that their input could be presented as coming from ASI. **D. Lopez** elaborated that the goal of Earth Week was to encourage students and the campus community to develop plans that make the university more sustainable for the future. He mentioned an award related to campus sustainability possibly the one displayed in the CORE building and said she would share additional materials about it upon request. **D. Lopez** noted that updates on the event would be sent later, though she cautioned that there would be a lot of information to review. He then outlined key focus areas for the sustainability group, including understanding interstate contact, product and service design life cycles, environmental impact, standards compliance, social and ethical responsibility, and economic and market sustainability. **D. Lopez** also referenced the STARS Report, an annual assessment used to measure how sustainable the campus is. He stressed the importance of beginning work on the report early, as it is a year-long process. Part of the effort would involve collecting surveys from students to evaluate campus sustainability practices and identify opportunities for improvement. He concluded by noting that the report would provide recommendations such as implementing better low-

waste management and that it was part of a statewide initiative to enhance sustainability across campuses.

B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Water Filtration Resolution (5 minutes)
The sustainability committee shall be informed on the progress of the Water Filtration Resolution.

D. Lopez shared that he and his team were eager to make a positive impact on campus water quality. He explained that she had been attempting to contact the Facilities Department to discuss improving water filtration systems specifically, to have filters replaced more frequently, ideally on a weekly rather than annual basis. He also expressed concern about unused water fountains across campus, suggesting that they be removed since they consumed unnecessary resources.

M. Dhawan agreed, noting that many of those fountains had accumulated dirt and fungus. **D. Lopez** confirmed this, recounting that she had recently drunk from one and found the water quality to be poor. He continued by outlining her plan for a resolution, stating that the first "whereas" clause would focus on establishing communication with Facilities to ensure regular filter replacements in specific campus areas, such as the Science Building and the RAW downstairs. He added that a more challenging component of the resolution would involve finding a way to eliminate the unused or malfunctioning "green mountain".

17:29

D. Teng asked if it will be simple enough to contact Facilities about relocating or removing the unused fountains. **D. Lopez** explained that it would likely be a more complex process. He said they would need to collaborate closely with Facilities while drafting the resolution, noting that the resolution would probably be finalized and passed the following semester, with implementation expected the year after. **D. Teng** then proposed that conducting a survey next semester might be an easier starting point. **D. Lopez** agreed, saying they could begin with a survey focused on campus water usage. He suggested gathering data on how many students used on-campus water sources, how frequently they purchased bottled water especially considering that many water filters were showing red indicators and how often students brought their own water to campus. He asked the group whether that scope seemed sufficient or if the survey should include additional questions.

C. DISCUSSION ITEM - Sustainability Promotion Ideas (5 minutes)

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The sustainability committee shall discuss different promotion ideas to get students to be more involved in sustainability.

D. Lopez proposed the idea of organizing a day where students could learn the basics of gardening around the music building. He explained that such an event would teach students how to plant and maintain gardens, helping them lead greener lives while picking up a positive, environmentally friendly hobby. He also mentioned wanting to make the group's Instagram page more active but admitted he didn't have many ideas for it yet, asking the others for suggestions.

D. Teng clarified, asking if **D. Lopez** was referring to the sustainability Instagram page, while **M. Dhawan** questioned whether there was a separate account for sustainability or if it was managed under the main ASI handle. **D. Lopez** said he wasn't sure but would check with **R. Munos** after the meeting. He added that if a separate account didn't exist, they could create one and ask the sustainability department to help promote it.

20:16

D. Lopez suggested visiting the science department to post flyers and engage students. He also proposed designing a simple two-page pamphlet that would highlight major events like Earth Week, provide recycling tips, and include information about resources such as the HOPE Pantry. He thought distributing the pamphlets during sustainability events would help raise awareness. **M. Dhawan** suggested collaborating with other departments to increase outreach, and **D. Lopez** agreed, saying the Welcome Center would be an ideal partner since it could help involve new students interested in sustainability.

M. Dhawan mentioned that he was part of a club with an upcoming large event and offered to promote sustainability initiatives there as well.

D. Lopez shared that he was planning a major spring event a sustainability-themed hackathon. His vision was to have students design apps that could help the campus improve its sustainability practices. He described one student's idea for an app that would let users scan an item to find out how to dispose of it properly. **D. Teng** asked whether the hackathon would be open only to CSUEB students or include other schools, **D. Lopez** said he planned to host it at CSUEB first. If the event proved successful, he hoped to bring it to his executive board's attention and potentially expand participation to other CSU campuses, though he noted he didn't currently have contacts at the other universities.

22:08

510.885.4843

associated.students@csueastbay.edu
www.csueastbay.edu/asi

25800 Carlos Bee Boulevard
Old Union #314, Hayward, CA 94542

D. Teng asked whether a hackathon had already taken place that semester or if CSUEB had hosted one previously.

D. Lopez replied that he wasn't sure if there had ever been a hackathon specifically focused on sustainability. **M. Dhawan** clarified that while there hadn't been a sustainability-themed hackathon, there was one held the previous semester.

D. Lopez asked if that event took place in the MBR, and **M. Dhawan** explained that it had actually been held in the CORE building. **D. Lopez** mentioned the Innovation Fest, but **M. Dhawan** corrected him, noting that it was a different event organized by a student club. He added that the hackathon itself had drawn participants not only from CSUEB but also from Southern California and other parts of the country.

D. Lopez suggested that they could open their planned sustainability hackathon to students from outside CSUEB as well, and **M. Dhawan** agreed that the idea was interesting.

D. Lopez asked if there were any other ideas on how to promote sustainability. When no additional suggestions were offered, he proposed that they begin working on the Sustainability ASI Instagram page, start designing the pamphlet, and begin reaching out to professors believing that faculty collaboration would be an effective next step.

D. **DISCUSSION ITEM - Classroom Green Visits (5 minutes)**
   The sustainability committee shall discuss the potential Classroom Green Visits.

D. Lopez introduced an initiative he called **"Green Visits."** He explained that the idea involved reaching out to professors and asking permission to visit their classrooms to speak about the committee's work, ongoing initiatives, and ways students and faculty could get involved. During these visits, the group would deliver a brief ten-minute presentation covering topics such as proper waste sorting like what belongs in the green bin and raising awareness about environmental issues connected to AI usage on campus. **D. Lopez** proposed that they could use these visits as an opportunity to distribute the water filtration survey to gather student input.
M. Dhawan suggested that the committee could collaborate with professors to visit lectures and talk about sustainability efforts. **D. Lopez** agreed, asking whether anyone had previously seen ASI members or other club representatives visit classrooms to speak about ASI or sustainability. **M. Dhawan** responded that he hadn't.

D. Lopez noted that such outreach usually happens only during freshman year, but he believed it would be beneficial to expand it to departments like Environmental Science and Biology. He asked for further discussion.

D. Teng inquired about which courses were most connected to sustainability, mentioning "environmental justice" as a possible example. Lopez added that Environmental Science, Ecology and Evolution, and another course he had taken that focused on environmental advocacy were relevant. **M. Dhawan** mentioned that there were many related classes, and emphasized that outreach didn't have to be limited to sustainability-related subjects the message could be shared in any class, regardless of major.

D. Lopez agreed, saying he also wanted to engage Computer Science majors, particularly regarding the environmental impacts of technology. He explained that he would need everyone's morning schedules to plan these classroom visits, as most students had classes during that time. He suggested holding these sessions once a week, starting within the next week or two, to introduce students to what ASI Sustainability offers and encourage broader participation.

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 opened the floor for discussion, inviting everyone to share ideas about issues they believed the committee should address. He encouraged members to bring up any new topics, concerns within their majors, or sustainability-related matters affecting the campus community that hadn't yet been discussed.

D. Teng asked whether new agenda items needed to be entirely new topics or if previously discussed issues could be revisited. **D. Lopez** clarified that unfinished items from prior meetings could always return to the agenda, while new discussion or informational items were also welcome. He added that he would send out the agenda outline next week, giving members the opportunity to suggest additions.

D. Teng proposed focusing on the student survey at the next meeting, suggesting they go into more detail about its design, questions, and answer options. **D. Lopez** agreed and asked

if he would like to take the lead or collaborate with him, **D. Teng** replied that he would work with him on it.

D. Lopez asked **M. Dhawan**, if he would like to help create the pamphlet. **M. Dhawan** agreed, and **D. Lopez** suggested they begin working on it the following Monday or Tuesday. He also mentioned that he had Canva Pro and could share access to it if needed for the project.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. STARS Report – Setup

Motion to postpone STARS Reports - Setup indefinitely by **M. Dhawan**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED.**

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

K. Tripathi said that it was a great first meeting and looking forward to many more in the future. He thanked everyone for their participation.

29:45

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 4:23 PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:
Chair/Director of Sustainability:
Daniel Kristofferson Lopez

Minutes approved on:
02/26/26
Date: