

## INFORMAL STATEMENT BEFORE THE FACULTY SENATE, Monday, October 21, 2019

Today I'd like to draw the attention of my fellow senators to an ongoing activity on WSU campus — this concerns perhaps the most important issue of our time, and it affects the most important of our constituents. I'm talking about climate change, sustainability, and our role as educators and mentors of our students, the future citizens of Kansas and beyond.

Since the beginning of this year, three working groups have been dedicated and active in three broad areas on our Campus: Research, Curriculum, and Facilities. These groups have been meeting weekly or bi-weekly to come up with ways to coordinate, encourage, and enhance collaboration across the colleges in our various activities that are directly or indirectly related to sustainability (or mitigation as well as adaptation to Accelerated Global Climate Change); in other words, how we can implement, embed, incorporate the idea of sustainable practices in everything we do, i.e. teach and design curriculum, perform research, and influence and inform our broader communities with the findings and experiences in our classrooms and laboratories.

If you are not already part of one of those three groups, but are even mildly curious, I urge to you to reach us and join us in this conversation as we try to formulate a more cohesive and “sustainable” pathway moving ahead. [in particular, missing from some or all of these groups are any representations from Fine Arts and Education].

In the meantime, I'd like to highlight a couple of specific information:

1. We are hoping to showcase our progress and ongoing activities on Earth Day 2020 (April 22, Wednesday); the agenda of the day-long activities is open and needs your input and ideas.
2. The website highlighting WSUs Sustainability practices/achievements/progress report is up and running: please check out

[www.wichita.edu/sustainability](http://www.wichita.edu/sustainability)

Last but not the least, I'd like to express my full appreciation for all the help from Prof Carolyn Shaw, a past Senate President and currently in the Provost's office, who has been instrumental in providing the original impetus that was long needed as well as ongoing support to keep these activities in motion.

Thank you for your attention, and thank you for what you do for the future citizens of this globalized world!