

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 3rd February, 2010

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Place: OL 127

ATTENDANCE:

Present: J. Murray, B. Christianson, N. Reisle, R. Reid, J. Van Hamme, P. Powers, D. Parkes, P. Tsigaris, H. Parsons, D. Crespin-Mueller, B. Klohn, S. Purdy, G. Hayes, L. Tabata, T. Owen

Regrets: J. Sparks

Notetaker: S. Jackson

Guests: K. Scollon, A. Hockin, S., Smedley

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

J. Murray in the Chair. The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm and new members were introduced.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion duly made, it was *RESOLVED* to approve the agenda as circulated.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On motion duly made, it was *RESOLVED* to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 6 January, 2010 as circulated.

S. Jackson

4. DISCUSSION RE. BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FOOD GARDEN AT TRU – KEVIN SCOLLON

K. Scollon gave a PowerPoint presentation on the above initiative, which included the following points:

- The proposal is to build a sustainable teaching food garden on campus where we can educate people how to grow vegetables.
- It is anticipated that this initiative would be tied into a number of other projects in various Faculties/Schools including, but not limited to:
 - Science – NRS, Biology, Horticulture
 - Nursing – nutrition education, medicinal plants
 - Education – Early Childhood Education, Education degree
 - Social Work & Human Service – food policy
 - Tourism – Culinary Arts, Adventure Tourism, nutrition
 - Trades & Technology – Carpentry, Welding, Outdoor Power Equipment
 - Business & Economics – small farm and agritourism case studies

- Arts – drawing, painting, sculpture, poetry, writing
- Student Development – student retention and volunteer activities
- Aboriginal Services – development of ethnobotany garden
- K. Scollon suggested we build a walled, aesthetically pleasing garden of 17,000 – 18,000 square feet.
- Three potential sites on campus have been identified.
- The produce could go to Culinary Arts, and/or the Food Bank.
- \$150,000 – \$250,000 is needed to get the initiative up-and-running.

On motion duly made, it was RESOLVED to draft a Letter of Support for the concept of a sustainable garden on campus, and send to Kevin Scollon.

*J. Murray/
S. Jackson*

5. TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN – LES TABATA

Les Tabata raised the following issues:

- Concern with process.
- Concern with funding (Facilities budget cut by approx. 75%). Who will fund this initiative?
- Who will run this initiative? The Parking department is not responsible for Transportation Demand Management.
- We have to provide specifications for RFP. (T. Owen noted that the EAC put together a draft RFP last year [draft of principles and objectives]. We do not appear to be any further ahead now than then.
- It was agreed to put a small committee together consisting of Tom Owen, Les Tabata, Susan Purdy and Nathan Lane from TRUSU, if Nathan is agreeable. It was further agreed to task this committee with “the plan for the plan”.
- Tom Owen and Les Tabata to talk to Cliff Neufeld re. funding/budget.
- Agenda item for March 2010 meeting.

*T. Owen/
L. Tabata/
S. Purdy
T. Owen/
L. Tabata
Next Agenda*

6. MATTERS ARISING:

- Brian Christianson to send link to Shirley re. air dryers/paper towels data, for circulation to EAC – *done*
- Brian Christianson to give Shirley surveys for forwarding to Les Tabata - *done*
- Tom Owen to refer air dryer issue to Les Tabata, and report back to EAC at Feb. meeting
 - Les Tabata indicated he had reviewed the literature on air dryers.
 - The House of Learning would be the logical place to put new air dryers, and they would be designed to legal standards.
 - It was suggested that if the paper towers are removed completely, then staff and students will complain.
 - The new air dryers are much more efficient and quiet than the old models.
 - We need to educate/publicize better, to reduce/stop complaints when we make changes.
 - Tom to find out what system is being installed in the House of Learning, and report back at the March EAC meeting.
 - March Agenda item.
- Report back re. plastic water bottles – Gerard
 - Gerard reported the following:
 - Sept-Dec 2008: 876 cases of water were sold on campus

T. Owen

Next Agenda

- Sept-Dec 2009: 745 cases of water were sold on campus, so volume has dropped.
- Sales of vitamin water and energy drinks has increased, but not by the same volume that water sales have decreased by.
- Water bottle filling stations – Tom to publicize
 - Students are still filling water bottles at drinking fountains; there is the perception that the water at the filling stations tastes bad. There was a problem at first, but now all the filling stations should be fine.
 - Tom to get banners advertising the water filling stations. The stations are already advertised on monitors throughout campus. Tom explained that he preferred not to put posters up advertising the filling stations, as posters are not “green”.
- Mixed food recycling – Penny to send relevant Act to Gerard; Gerard to look into this further
 - Penny sent a copy of the Act to Gerard, who subsequently had a meeting with Aramark.
 - Aramark can/will send food out, as will Starbucks. Deliveries have been set up with the Food Bank.
 - Tim Horton’s can’t/won’t follow the same initiative.
 - Robin to follow up with the Food Training Centre, to see if their left-over food can be part of this initiative. *R. Reid*
- Working Group Terms of Reference/Membership – Tom to amend terminology, membership - *done*
 - **On motion duly made, it was *RESOLVED* to approve the amended Terms of Reference for the EAC Working Groups.** *S. Jackson*
 - EAC Members to let S. Jackson know if they are interested in sitting on any of the Working Groups. *All*
 - Tom Owen to circulate the amended draft to the EAC Committee. *T. Owen*
 - Agenda item for next EAC meeting. *Next Agenda*

7. REPORT TO BCOS ON CARBON TAX – TOM OWEN

Tom Owen presented a draft report from the Environmental Advisory Committee to the Budget Committee of Senate on the Carbon Neutral Levy. Carbon neutrality has three requirements:

- The measurement of greenhouse gases;
- Implementing measures to reduce those gases, and
- Paying a levy on the remaining emissions to the Pacific Carbon Trust

The levy will cost TRU approximately \$130,000 – 150,000. Tom Owen confirmed that TRU is now carbon neutral, according to government criteria.

8. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – TOM OWEN

- The Speaker Series got off to an excellent start, with about 80 people attending the Copenhagen Post Mortem session with Tria Donaldson and James Hunt.
- A call for nominations for the Environmental Award has been made. The deadline is February 15th.
- T. Owen has contacted D. DiFrancesco in the Digital Art & Design department to help organize a competition for an environment and sustainability logo.
- T. Owen has updated the strategic plan with respect to progress on meeting our objectives. If any EAC members have any amendments, please forward to Tom. *All*

- T. Owen is making a presentation tomorrow at noon in the Clock Tower building (4 February, 2010) as part of International Days.
- T. Owen welcomed Sandie Smedley, a student that has started to work with him. T. Owen also thanked Adam Hockin, a student that has been working with Tom but is now completing his studies.
- IT Services has reduced electricity usage by approx. 20% by using different software packages. Smart bars can be purchased for individual workstations, so when the computer monitor turns off, the smart bar turns off which saves approx. \$5/year for each appliance that is plugged in.
- Energy Manager Contract with BC Hydro (one year renewable contract, fully funded position) – agenda item for next meeting. *Next Agenda*

9. EAC REPORT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND SENATE – TOM OWEN

The Waste Audit Report from 2008 was removed from the report, together with the draft vehicle policy.

On motion duly made, it was *RESOLVED* to approve the amended EAC Report to the Board of Governor and Senate. *S. Jackson*

10. DRAFT ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN (deferred from January meeting) – TOM OWEN

- The Action Plan has been revised to include a Globalization Certificate being developed by Lian Dumouchel.
- All EAC members to sign the Plan.
- The Plan will then go to Senate and the Board, as an attachment to the EAC Report.
- **On motion duly made, it was *RESOLVED* to forward the signed draft Environment & Sustainability Action Plan to the Board of Governors and Senate.** *S. Jackson*

11. AD HOC REPORTS

• Environmental Policy – Tom Owen

- This draft policy sets out environmental objectives, including purchasing and energy.
- The policy was amended to read, “Department of Environment and Sustainability”.
- **On motion duly made, it was *RESOLVED* to recommend approval of the draft Environmental Policy to the appropriate committee.** *S. Jackson*
- The draft policy will be forwarded to the Council of Deans, VP Administration groups, and the OL Executive. *S. Jackson*
- John Sparks will be asked if there are any other committees that should see the draft policy. *S. Jackson*
- Draft Vehicle policy – comments have been received. This will be an EAC agenda item for March *Next Agenda*

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Gerard to invite Tina Horsley, Director of Wellness & Sustainability with Aramark, to speak to the committee. Gerard to obtain her details and liaise with *G. Hayes*

Tom Owen re. schedules. Students would probably be interested in this initiative too, so if we are successful in securing the speaker, we will videotape the event.

- “Do it in the dark”, the Eco Club on campus, have arranged a “low energy, high awesomeness” party with acoustic music, local alcohol, beeswax candles, in The Terrace on March 31st.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Kamloops Sustainability Atlas – Dave Whiting (March 2010)