

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 2, 2016

Committee meeting held in the Independent Centre Boardroom, Thompson Rivers University,
Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 12:00 PM.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE (there is one Board appointed vacancy)		
Present:	Scott Blackford (designate from TRU office of General Counsel); Tom Dickinson; Karl Fultz; Crystal Huscroft (Vice Chair); Rory McKerchar; Michael Mehta; Paul Michel; Amie Schellenberg; Susan Purdy; Wayne Singular (Chair); Peter Tsigaris;	
Participating by Teleconference:	None.	
Regrets:	Warren Asuchak; James Bergen (new student member); Jim Gudjonson; Jessica Heney; Courtney Mason; Glenn Read; Marjorie Serack	
Guests:	none	
Others:	James Gordon (note-taker; TRU Sustainability Office (TRUSO))	
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES	<i>The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:05 pm by the Vice-Chair.</i>	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<i>On motion duly made by Karl, seconded by Amie, and approved by all other members it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distribute.</i>	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<i>Minutes of October 5, 2016. On motion duly made by Michael, seconded by Karl, and approved by all others it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes as distributed.</i> Approving Minutes from ESAC Visioning Session of May 2, 2016. Tabled.	
PRESENTATIONS	<u>TRU Human Resources Department to have sustainability as the theme for the upcoming February 22 TRU In-Service Day.</u> Larry Phillips from the TRU Human Resources department spoke on some of the details surrounding the plan to have Sustainability as the main theme of the upcoming staff In-Service day. There will be approximately 400 to 450 people, and this typically drops off by half after lunch. This event has been going for 20 years now with a variety	

of themes, but getting strong turnout is always a challenge. A good keynote speaker is very important to the success of the event. One idea for a keynote speaker is a futurist (who can talk about trends). The approximate budget for a good speaker is \$10,000. Often there are breakout sessions, for example 8 of them and people can pick two or three that would last 30 to 40 minutes each. It was agreed that having First Nations views built into the event schedule was a good idea.

Michael Mehta on Solar Compass project at entrance to A 7 E building. Michael Mehta presented first on the Solar Compass project, which will be installed in front of the main doors of the arts and education building in 2017. Currently, there are the markings of a compass inlaid into the concrete. Once complete, part of the concrete will be removed and replaced with highly durable solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. These panels are state-of-the-art and are designed to not only be walked on but be able to withstand snow shoveling, high-speed brushing and clearing equipment. This will be the first installation of its kind in Canada. Part of the allure of the project is that it has the potential to accelerate the promotion of solar PV technology since it is at street level - people are literally walking on it - as compared to traditional solar PV which is on roof tops. Michael is working with many partners throughout the community on this project.

Amie Schellenberg on solar PV project on the roof of the Trades building. Amie Schellenberg, electrical trades instructor in the TRU School of Trades and Technology, then presented on the solar PV project that she is heading up on the roof of the Trades building. Three TRU students were successful last year in obtaining funds from the TRU sustainability Grant fund to install solar PV panels on approximately 25 light posts around the campus. Upon further investigation it was determined that due to the wind, this was inadvisable (the panels would act as small makeshift sails). The project was then reinvented to its present format and location, and will likely be complete by the end of 2016. Trades students are gaining valuable experience by providing the installation labour, and Amie is also gaining experience by acting as the lead installation

'contractor'. 36 panels are being installed.

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES**

On work of sub-committee looking at issues to do with entrenching and infusing sustainability into TRU curriculum.

Susan reported on the following:

- She heard back from the Teachers Practicum Colloquium committee, and the theme they're more interested in adopting is not really sustainability but more 'students of tomorrow'. This event is also looking for ideas for a keynote speaker. The colloquium encourages workshops in sustainability.
- There was a motion to form the sustainability in curriculum subcommittee. Susan initiated it, Crystal seconded it and it passed unanimously. Susan is the interim chair.
 - Regarding promoting this subcommittee and trying to attract TRU staff and faculty members to sit on it, notices should be sent on email list serves.
- She is interested in attending one of ASSHE's workshops on the 'nuts and bolts' of getting sustainability content into the curriculum (there is one Jan 5/6 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia). James will talk to Susan about possible contacts as a result of his attendance at a recent sustainability conference in Baltimore.
- At the December ESAC meeting Susan will report on her presentation to the TRU Senate in order to find out their views on embedding sustainability in the curriculum.

All

James

Susan

Updates to new ESAC Sharepoint site - James reported that he has not had time to do anything, but will pursue this for the next meeting.

James

Vision for EAC - Wayne will lead a discussion on next steps at the December 7 meeting.

Wayne

Discuss joining Canadian Universities Environmental Network -

- Tom's report is tabled (re if the Provost has approved joining network, and what next steps there might be).
- Susan mentioned the annual conference in May is in the Yukon. James will send details.

Tom

James

Administration of the Sustainability Grant Fund. Crystal had some concerns regarding a fair and transparent process in regards to the awarding of funds for research projects. She discovered that some other universities administer similar grant funds for curriculum

projects but not research-based ones. She will discuss this topic further at the December meeting.

Crystal

Waste/composting food from retailers on campus –Amie began the discussion on this topic and the following came out of it:

- James still has to contact TRU staff at the city of Kamloops water treatment plant downtown about installing a zero waste station
- Regarding steps to cut back on the amount of edible food being thrown out, the following was discussed in regards to what Amie witnessed at the Trades Café
 - Composting: Food should be unwrapped/unpackaged and thrown in the compost bin but due to the lack of time that staff have, this is not happening
 - Food waste reduction: Perhaps there could be a time/price reduction scale, whereby the price of unsold food is reduced on a sliding scale as the clock moves away from peak selling times; the other idea that came up was simply donating uneaten food to the food bank

James

Amie

Ensuring proper process for awarding Environmental Achievement Award (now changed to Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award) – Tabled until the December 7 meeting, when Wayne will discuss.

Wayne

How to facilitate regular two-way communication between strategic campus groups and our committee. Wayne will lead a discussion on next steps at the December 7 meeting.

Wayne

List of which committees ESAC members currently sit on. James will remind ESAC members to submit on this topic, and then post on the ESAC SharePoint site.

James

Chairperson position with Wayne. Due to Wayne's teaching schedule, he is unable to make Wednesday meetings until after 12:30. He believes that he might have to step down from the chair after January. This issue will be revisited at the January meeting. Crystal is willing to chair the meetings until he arrives.

January meeting on 2nd Wednesday. Since classes don't start until January 9, the meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2017

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES None.

**OF VISIONING
SESSION**

NEW BUSINESS None.

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEES** None

**DIRECTOR'S
REPORT** None

CORRESPONDENCE None

NEXT MEETING December 7, noon to 1:30 in the Independent Centre Boardroom.

ADJOURNMENT 1:35 PM.

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

Signature of Vice-Chairperson, Vice-Chair (if required)