

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JAN 4TH, 2012

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Place: OL 127

NOTES

Present: P. Tsigaris, T. Owen, D. Parkes, S. Purdy, L. Tabata, J. Murray, C. Huscroft, G. Hayes, B. Klohn, J. Sparks, C. Huscroft, D. Crespin-Mueller, T. Dickinson, H. Hove

Regrets: N. McBlane, I. Rich

Observer: K. Smith,

Scribe: K. Boyd

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

P. Tsigaris in the chair. The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOMING NEW EAC MEMBERS

Peter welcomed new members to the committee.

New Board Member: Hoberly Hove

New Staff: Kaitlin Boyd, Environmental Programs Coordinator

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by G. Hayes, seconded by S. Purdy. Carried.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by L. Tabata, seconded by D. Parkes. Carried.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Ban Textbooks

Further comments on the Ban textbook discussion from the last EAC meeting. The technology for e-books is evolving but is still years away. TRU is probably one of the top in the country for used books as over 25% of books sold at the TRU Bookstore are used, with the national average around 16-17%.

Centre for Environment & Sustainability

Peter Tsigaris acting on behalf of the EAC sent an email of support and recognition to Dr. Lauchlan Fraser. It was discussed that the inclusion of as many groups as possible will be critical for the proposal's success. Therefore support from the EAC would be very valuable. Centre will take at least a year to establish.

Action Plan Renewal

Tom Owen suggested a return to the previous model with inclusion of all unions, alumni, TRUSU, and all other stakeholder groups on campus. Each association would appoint a rep and an EAC member would ideally Chair the committee which would then go over the existing action plan and update it. Action plan will be updated every 3 years, as per the Environmental Policy.

Action: Tom Owen to contact head of each organization to request a nominee to the working group

Proposed Ajax Mine

TRUFA recently sent an email inviting members to vote on whether they opposed or supported the project. There was concern from some EAC members regarding a vote taking place before an independent panel review has been conducted. The President of TRUFA acknowledged concern and stated the email was sent to only solicit a general feeling. As an internal advisory body to the Board and Senate the EAC will not be taking a position on the proposed mine.

Green Committees

SoBE currently has a standing green committee that looks primarily at academic and operational aspects of the faculty. Susan Purdy will go to the Science Faculty Council at the next meeting to discuss a Green Committee in Science. Tom Owen offered to subsidize 3-4 people to attend a Green Team training session in Kelowna in February. The sessions are sponsored by the BC Climate Action Secretariat. Training will be an all-day session. The actual date of the training will be circulated..

Action: Susan Purdy & Crystal Huscroft will inquire about creating committees in their respective Faculties (Science & Arts).

Environmental Credential

Credential has not yet been moved forward. Has been sent to the First Nations Representative for review and once that is complete sometime in January the credential will be submitted to the Educational Programs Committee.

Retreat

The Retreat at McQueen Lake during reading break is not possible during that week but there are other dates. If committee is still interested, Tom Owen will submit a list of dates for the committee to choose. These will be in February; however the committee could go in March. Retreat would be one day, no overnight stay. McQueen Lake is also interested in doing more educational initiatives with the university. Wells Gray was discussed as another possible location.

Action: Tom Owen will send a list of possible dates to the committee members.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Revised document is essentially the same policy with minor word changes. Tom Owen noted the 'Department' of Environment & Sustainability is listed as 'Office' in the policy. The committee was given the option to delay a vote until next meeting or to review and vote immediately. It was decided to vote immediately, provided new members have enough time to read through the policy. The Policy will be up for review 5 years from initial approval; however, the Regulations section of the policy could be amended before then by the President under appropriate consultation. Current policy is neater administratively. The previous Action plan made each VP responsible for their respective area, whereas the new policy goes directly to the VP Finance and Administration.

Tom Owen moved to support the document as policy, seconded by Tom Dickinson. Carried. Policy will be sent to John Sparks and Tom Dickinson. and then on to Presidents Council.

Action: Susan Purdy asked if there was any place to see the action plan. Tom Owen offered to do a presentation on the Campus Sustainability Action Plan at the next meeting.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS FOR 2012 – PETER

7.1 Environmental Policy

As discussed previously has been passed by EAC.

7.2 Centre for Environment and Sustainability

Previously discussed.

7.3 Certificate in Environmental Leadership

As the current credential is non-credit, it cannot be called a certificate. The Global Competency Credential is moving to a certificate framework. In order to fulfill the certificate requirements, a one-credit course has been included in the credential. Existing courses cannot be designated as certificate courses, there must be a separate course created that students will have to pay for. The current Environmental Leadership certificate will move as a credential but could eventually be made into a certificate.

7.4 New Sustainability Action Plan

Previously discussed.

7.5 Food Services Contact Renewal

Contract will be renewed in 2013. The RFP will be done summer 2012 and will be a 10 year contract. The contract does not cover Culinary Arts, however Culinary Arts does have the option of ordering through Aramark's suppliers, but it is not required. The issue of local food inclusion in the contract was discussed. Gerard has a list of local businesses with whom they are now in discussions with. Most Food Services companies have a federally inspected threshold and are unable to purchase local meat that is not federally inspected. Local meat is inspected provincially in the Kamloops area, not federally. To purchase locally, co-operatives of local suppliers will be needed due to the large volumes that the university purchases. When the RFP comes up, the EAC will be involved. The Coke contract comes up for renewal in 2014 or 2015.

7.6 Establishment of Green Committees

Previously discussed.

7.7 Implementation of Academic Plan – Sustainability

Will discuss this more during retreat.

7.8 Other?

TDM Study

Draft report was received and required amendments. Met with consultant in December and consultant then sent back proposed amendments. By March the Department should have the final document. Report will probably have to go for general community consultation. Crystal Huscroft noted that professor Tom Waldichuk takes key interest in TDM along with his students and should be included. Professor Waldichuk currently sits on the review committee for the TDM.

8. CONTINUE POPULATING HUMAN, BUILT AND NATURAL SUBCOMMITTEES –

Addition to Built Environment: Hoberly Hove

Addition to Human Environment: Dorys Crespín-Mueller

Addition to Natural Environment: Lyn Baldwin, Professor of Science, has expressed interest.

At retreat EAC will look again at subcommittees and identify goals and strategies.

9. TIER II CANADIAN RESEARCH CHAIRS – PETER

Opening at TRU for Tier II Research Chair. From the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

10. INTERNATIONAL DAYS – ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKERS – EAC ROLE?

PETER

Captain Charles Moore, internationally known researcher of ocean plastics will be the Keynote for Wednesday. Ivan Zadvasky, Senior Water Resources Management specialist at the Global Environment Facility will speak Monday. Department will be doing a number of activities and events throughout the week.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Robin Reid will be presenting her research on community gardens, specifically the Public Produce Project next week at a Sustainability Conference in Vancouver.

Community Garden

Kevin Scollon from Horticulture Department is currently completing his master's thesis which included a presentation and interviews for the community garden project. He may be finished.

Action: Kaitlin to contact Kevin Scollon to present to the EAC regarding his community garden research for TRU.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.