



Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 3, 2021

Due to Covid19, the committee meeting was held virtually using MS Teams

Thompson Rivers University

Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 12:00 PM

| HEADING | ITEM / DISCUSSION | ACTION |
|---|--|--------|
| ATTENDANCE | | |
| Present: | Christine Adam, Scott Blackford, Christin Chen, Karl Fultz (Vice Chair), Alana Hoare, Robyn Hollas, Pete Hrkac, Carolyn Ives, Tina Matthew, Michael Mehta, Christine Miller (Chair), Jana Noskova, Nicole Schabus, Meng Sun, Peter Tsigaris, Thamindu Widyaratne | |
| Participating by Teleconference: | none | |
| Absent: | Bala Nikku, | |
| Regrets: | Warren Asuchak, Dipesh Prema | |
| Admin Support: | Rikia Penchuk | |
| Guests: | none | |
| Others: | Alana Hoare (Office of Quality Assurance) and James Gordon from Sustainability Office. | |
| Vacancies: | none | |
| CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES | The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:03 pm by the Chair, Christine Miller, who welcomed everyone. A special welcome took place for Christine Adam, Associate Vice-President - Students and Dean of the Faculty of Student Development, who has joined ESAC as the Dean's Council Representative. A round of introductions then took place. | |
| TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | Christine Miller gave the territorial acknowledgement. | |
| ADOPTION OF | On MOTION duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the | |

AGENDA

agenda as distributed, with two additions:

1. Under New Business – James and Christine to report on Biodiversity at TRU.
2. Correspondence – One item.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Feb 3, 2021 were accepted. Christine Adam abstained due to not being present at the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

ELECTION

5. ELECTION of new Vice Chair

Due to Karl leaving TRU at the end of this month, the committee nominated Tina Matthew to the position of Vice Chair. There were no other nominations, and a vote took place by way of acclamation. Tina Matthew accepted the role of Vice Chair. Congratulations to Tina!

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6a. Re Climate Emergency Letter

(<https://www.sdgaccord.org/climateletter>)

- i. James reported on the Marcom press release. James spoke with Todd Hauptman from Marcom (since the person who worked on this issue initially (Lindsey Norris) was away) and discussed the notion of elevating the importance of this issue by having a press release go out and to report that TRU has signed the letter. The committee would like to let the TRU community and broader community know that TRU has signed the letter. Since Lindsey has dealt with this issue since the start, she will help further on this issue once she is back.
- ii. Thamindu reported on TRUSU signing the letter. Thamindu said that there has been no email response from Cole Hickson yet (TRUSU student president). Christine reported that she also did not receive a reply. Thamindu will bring up the letter

James

Thamindu

at the next TRUSU meeting. If TRUSU does not reply, the committee will need to decide to table this item.

b. Bird Strike film. Update from Warren and/or Karl. James reported on behalf of Warren as he was unable to make the meeting. Facilities has a quote for the clock tower at \$15,000 and the work will be completed in the next two weeks. The quote for Old Main is \$58,000 so we will need to go out for bids. The work will be completed in June. The price is steep, however that's usually the case when contracting out this type of job. Scott mentioned that the bid process might give us a better price. Thanks to Tom, Scott and Karl for initiating this project. James added that the bird strike project will be added to the Innovation reports in STARS report. Karl's name to be removed from this update.

Warren

c. Discussion re update to ESAC Terms of Reference regarding adding two new members for the purposes of making the ESAC more relevant in the community: An Indigenous Community Member and a Community Member at Large.

Rikia/James

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

7a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee report by Christine. There has been a large stakeholder group created for a sustainable workshop and a meeting with this group is happening in the next few weeks.

7b. Awards Sub-committee report by Michael Mehta, Chair. Michael reported that the committee has adjudicated 3 nominations for the TRU Sustainable Achievement Awards. The nominations are the following:

1. Staff member nomination – Karl Fultz
2. Student nomination – Stacia Panko
3. Student nomination – Alana Rogers

Michael nominated the three and Jana seconded. Christine abstained as she is a co-nominator. The motion passed. The committee let Karl know of the nomination at the meeting. Scott asked Michael about student nominations and when

the committee can hand out the two student awards . Action item: Add 'handing out of student awards' to April ESAC agenda and invite students to the meeting.

7c. ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee; report by James, Chair. James reported that the committee met on Feb 24th and discussed the following:

1) How to best deal with cigarette butts on campus. The committee is in the early stages of engaging with TerraCycle who recycles cigarette butts. The committee will work with students on the ambassador program. James reported that there is a "butt bandit" damaging and making a large mess with the ashtrays around campus. The committee is reaching out to other universities to learn how they deal with these issues. The committee is looking at different receptacles.

2). Discussed how to best deal with single-use items on campus (in particular the 6 made of plastic that the federal government plans to ban by the end of 2021). The committee is working with Robyn Hollas from Ancillary services to figure out eliminating single use paper coffee cups.

7d. ESAC Core Theme Planning sub-committee. Report by Alana Hoare, Chair. Alana shared the sustainability mission fulfilment framework. The committee updated their five-year goal to 2025. It creates alignment with resources as well. Discussion on biodiversity and protecting it at last meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

8a. James reported on behalf of Warren. TRU received an additional \$1 million dollars from BC Hydro for the Low Carbon District Energy System, we have signed the Terms of Reference Agreement and have started on the schematic design of the Energy Centre. This will abate 950 tonnes equivalent to 93% reduction in GHG's when completed.

Tender documents have just been posted for the Upper College Heights Low Carbon Electrification Project, Phase 1. A \$2.2m project which is part of the BC Hydro Incentivized project through Clean BC.

TRU is in the middle of implementing a DDC system optimization project at A&E, Clock Tower, Library, HR, CAC and Warehouse, and a Continuous Optimization round 2 project for HOL, IB and A&E. All the measures will help get to about a 3000 GJ savings of natural gas and a 400,000 kWh electricity savings annually.

NEW BUSINESS

9a. STARS Report update. James reported a high-level update on the STARS report and that TRU is working towards a platinum score.

James reported on sustainability research grants – The Sustainability Office worked with the Research Office to tweak the terms of reference to make it easier for students and staff to apply. There is one staff award of \$5,000 and one student award of \$5,000. Chris Adam noted that these grants have amounted to great initiatives such as gender inclusive washrooms (single stalls).

b. Addition to Agenda – Biodiversity of Campus. The bird strike film project falls under biodiversity. Are there other ways to support biodiversity on campus? Biodiversity globally is under threat and it is not getting better on many fronts so what we can do at TRU to turn that around – it can only be a good thing. Some ideas that the committee discussed adding to the campus: Bee and butterfly garden, botanical garden, natural grasses and other flora, constructed wetland for grey water management, and Indigenous culture should be included as well. There was an audit on the campus trees and the value to replace them is \$32 million dollars. Action item: Discuss possibility of biodiversity subcommittee at April ESAC meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A PDF card was presented to Karl wishing him a happy retirement and thanking him for his tireless efforts serving on this committee!

NEXT MEETING

April 7, 2021- 12:00 to 1:30 pm— Virtual via MS Teams

ADJOURNMENT Adjourned at 1:16pm

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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