

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 3, 2014

Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the Independent Centre boardroom,
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 4:00 pm.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE		
Present:	M. Harrison; J. Gudjonson; C. Huscroft; J. Lam; D. Parkes; S. Purdy (Chair); A. Saweczko; W. Singular; L. Tabata	
Participating by Teleconference:	None	
Regrets:	E. Bourassa; M. Gordon; H. Hove; L. Komori; S. Learie; G. Read; J. Sparks; P. Tsigaris	
Guests:	Joanne de Vries, Fresh Outlook Foundation (via conference call)	
Others:	J. Gordon (note-taker, TRU Office of Environment and Sustainability)	
CALL TO ORDER	<i>The meeting being duly constituted for the conduct of business, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.</i>	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<i>On motion duly made by C. Huscroft, and seconded by M. Harrison, it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed but with the addition to discuss some particulars of this year's Sustainability Grant Fund.</i>	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<u>Minutes of June 19, 2014 AND May 6, 2014</u> <i>On motion duly made by L. Tabata, and seconded by W. Singular, it was RESOLVED to approve the June 19 Minutes as distributed. However, due to unresolved items on the minutes from the meeting of May 6 2, 2014 they were not approved. They will be approved at the October meeting.</i>	
BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	<u>Regarding ELECTIONS of EAC Chair and Vice-chair.</u> Both positions are for a one year term. S. Purdy said she would be willing to sit as the Chair again if EAC members want her to. E. Bourassa said she too would be willing to sit as the Chair or Vice-Chair if members want her to. Due to the fact that there was not a quorum of members at the start of the meeting, elections were	

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postponed until the October meeting.

**On development of new Strategic Sustainability Plan (SSP),
formerly called the Campus Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP).**

J. Gudjonson mentioned that in general, things are going well with the development of the plan. The goal is to have the final version done for Sept 12. It will then be sent to the TRU Board for approval on Sept 26. The plan has morphed from an Operations-centric plan (related to use of energy, utilities, water, etc.) to one that is far more inclusive of most major aspects of TRU. New synergies have formed with various areas of TRU, for instance with Academics.

J. Gudjonson and S. Purdy had a very good meeting about the plan with Uli Scheck, TRU Provost & Vice-President Academic. They discussed the possibility of a Minor in Sustainability, and maybe even a Major in the area of sustainability. Uli likes the sustainability course pathway that happens at UBC, whereby students take on a major sustainability-related project. S. Purdy thinks there is a need for a sub-committee from the EAC to look at issues to do with entrenching and infusing sustainability into the formal academic side of TRU and so will take steps to form one.

S. Purdy

M. Harrison mentioned that a change to the TRU Institutional Learning Outcomes is coming soon (she sits on that committee), so now would likely be a good time to get the issue of getting sustainability included in those outcomes put on the committee's next meeting agenda. The forming of the new committee just mentioned (which M. Harrison will sit on) will address issues like this.

J. Gudjonson and S. Purdy also met with Will Garrett-Petts, TRU Associate Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies, regarding a funding idea for sustainability-related research: \$10,000 would be taken from the \$100,000 Sustainability Grant Fund pool of money and made available to TRU faculty who want to use it as seed money to pursue larger sustainability-related research grants; the \$10,000 would give them the time to

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go after the bigger grants. There would also be approximately \$10,000 (in two \$5000 amounts) in grants for undergrad students wanting to pursue sustainability-related research.

J. Gudjonson also put forward the suggestion of changing the name—and hence the scope--of the EAC to the SAC: the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Of course, this would have to go through a formal Senate approval-process. Although there was recognition that this change would likely mean this committee would take on a bigger role at TRU, the over-all consensus was that everyone was ok with it. Since there was no quorum at the time this issue came up, a vote on this issue will take place at the October meeting. In keeping with this change, the Strategic Sustainability Plan document would become the ‘property’ of the new SAC and not the TRU Office of Environment and Sustainability (TRUOES), as it currently is. This would help give the document more ‘weight’ since the SAC is a Senate appointed committee, and hence affects all areas of TRU, whereas if it stays under the auspices of TRUOES then it limits the scope of the plan since TRUOES operates mostly under Operations. The SAC would also track the progress of the eighteen areas of the plan. A ‘dashboard’ will be developed to this end by TRUOES to help with this.

S. Purdy

J. Gudjonson

There was some discussion that the time-lines of the current draft are confusing since they are written on a vertical bar on the left-hand side of pages. This should be changed to make them more clear. Also, there was further discussion that the plan is very long and this may ‘scare’ people away from reading and engaging with it. Is it possible to get a 5-6 page concise summary of the plan? There should be specific action items that need to be completed by specific people/departments/committees. J. Gudjonson explained that one of the main reasons that it’s so long (83 pages) is that it’s following the structure of the STARS report, which is a report of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The STARS report is a benchmark report used by North American universities to track everything to do with their sustainability on campus; as such, it is very comprehensive. Once complete, they are assigned a ‘grade’

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based on their sustainability progress. TRU currently has a Silver grade, which it received the last time it did the report in 2012. TRUOES will complete a new report (done every three years) this fall and J. Gudjonson anticipates that it will again achieve Silver since it lacks sustainability strength in one key area: academics.

PRESENTATIONS

Discussion around development of new Sustainability

Conference at TRU- J. Gudjonson introduced guest Joanne de Vries (via conference call) who spoke about TRU's involvement in developing a new conference called the *CommUnity Innovation Lab* (CIL), which TRU is a major sponsor of and which will happen Feb 3 to 5, 2015 at TRU.

Besides TRU playing host to the conference, the hope is that TRU faculty will use it as an opportunity to integrate their classroom activities and curriculum into the format of the conference, in order to get students as involved in it as possible.

Joanne is the director of the Fresh Outlook Foundation (Kelowna) and for the last six years has organised the successful *Building Sustainable Communities Conference* in Kelowna, which has attracted up to 600 delegates from around BC. This is the first time she has brought a conference to Kamloops.

Here is a brief overview of the CIL conference: Hosted by the Fresh Outlook Foundation (FOF), in partnership with TRU, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and the City of Kamloops, the CIL is a leading-edge community engagement event designed to gather people from all sectors in society to identify three Kamloops-specific sustainability challenges and collaborative solutions, and then to facilitate a year-long oversight process to ensure the resulting recommendations are being implemented, measured, and reported. The hope is that this year-long project could be part of a TRU Masters' student's thesis; and some funding (approximately \$5000) would be available for this. Recommendations of students interested in this are being sought after and can be directed towards Joanne de Vries.

CIL, which is a laboratory and workshop/based conference and

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not a presentation-based one, is the first event of its kind, and will guide the design and delivery of subsequent innovation labs in BC and beyond.

To be successful, CIL requires meaningful and productive dialogue among people from government, business, non-profits, community interest groups, academia, students, and the general public who have diverse interests and objectives related to our community's social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being.

The next steps in developing the conference are:

- An afternoon focus group session Sept 11 with 10-15 key people from all sectors of Kamloops society to discuss making the conference a success; and
- A one day workshop on Oct 2 (9 to 4), where about 80 local community leaders will be invited to help identify the three Kamloops-specific challenges that will be addressed at the February event. Participation by EAC members would certainly enhance the outcomes, and would be greatly appreciated! EAC members will be contacted about this.

Finally, S. Purdy asked if Joanne would be open to hosting a 'Sustainability Village' event sometime during the conference, whereby any Kamloops/TRU community member with any stake in promoting sustainability – goods, services, academics, infrastructure, etc. – would be able to come 'set up a booth' to share what they have to say. Joanne was very open to this idea. Details to follow.

J. Gordon

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (continued)

Study and/or Challenge (between faculties and/or between institutions) re Paper Cut Challenge event– Due to not being able to resolve details, C Huscroft announced that this event will be postponed until the next semester in January. In the meantime, she will organize a meeting with Liam Regan (from Printshop), herself, S. Purdy and J. Gordon.

C. Huscroft

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EAC sub-committee discussing vision of a 'TRU Sustainability

Centre' – S. Purdy will send Doodle Poll to sub-committee members (herself, J. Gordon, M. Gordon, J. Gudjonson, L. Learie and P. Tsigaris), and any other interested EAC members, to find out when is a good date/time for a standing monthly meeting. Part of the focus will be to discuss getting more sustainability curriculum at TRU.

S. Purdy

Moving Trades Dept. heavy equipment off grasslands behind

Warehouse. S. Purdy reported that remediation work has been happening all summer by students to 'clean up the mess', and that the last bit of funding is coming in. The invasive weeds have been removed; native seeds planted in greenhouses to grow seedlings; and now those seedlings have to be planted. This will happen Sept 27 and volunteers are needed. Once this is done, the last thing that has to take place is an information kiosk will be built by Trades to explain the whole process.

Initiative to phase out desk-top printers - J. Gudjonson reported

that momentum is building around this issue (there are currently about 270 of them on campus). The reasons for getting rid of them in favour of using multi-function printers (MFP) are many: economic, environmental, health, maintenance, human resources, and exercise. A. Saweczko pointed out that because there would need to be exceptions to a ban on them (mobility issues being one of them), having a Directive rather than a Policy would be the sensible way forward. J. Gudjonson and S. Purdy will draft a letter from the EAC to Matt Milovick in support of this initiative. If it gets signed, then it goes to TRU Board for approval.

**J. Gudjonson,
S. Purdy**

Casual Shirt Day event – This event will be postponed to July/August when the weather is appropriate.

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEES**

None.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT	None.	
NEW BUSINESS	<p><u>TRU Sustainability Grant Fund (SGF)</u> – J. Gudjonson reported that this year the SGF will only have one intake, not two, and be valued at \$80,000, not \$100,000 (which last year had two intakes of \$50,000). This will happen to ease TRUOES's work-load administering the fund. The remaining \$20,000 (from the \$100,000) will be used in two ways. A \$10,000 grant will be awarded to TRU faculty to pursue sustainability-related research, and two \$5000 grants will be awarded to TRU students also pursuing sustainability-related research. Details regarding all grants will be available soon.</p> <p>The SGF Pre-Proposal deadline will be Nov 16, 2014, and the Proposal Deadline will be Feb 10, 2015. There will also be a proposal writing workshop sometime shortly after Nov 16.</p>	
CORRESPONDENCE	None.	
NEXT MEETING	October 1, 2014 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the TRUSU Boardroom.	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.	

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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