

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 6, 2016

Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the Independent Centre Boardroom,
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 12:20 PM.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE (there is one vacancy: a student)		
Present:	Tom Dickinson; Karl Fultz; Jim Gudjonson; Jessica Heney; Hoberly Hove; Michael Mehta; Dale Parkes; Susan Purdy; Glenn Read; Wayne Singular (Chair)	
Participating by Teleconference:	None	
Regrets:	Warren Asuchak; Scott Blackford (designate from TRU office of General Counsel); Crystal Huscroft (Vice Chair); Amie Schellenberg; Marjorie Serack); Peter Tsigaris	
Guests:	Alex McClellan (TRUSU, Research Coordinator)	
Others:	James Gordon (note-taker; TRU Sustainability Office (TRUSO)); Natalie Yao (TRUSO)	
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES	<i>The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:35 pm by the Chair. Two new members were welcomed and introductions of all present were done. The new members are Michael Mehta (faculty member), and Jessica Heney (a Board-appointed member and student)</i>	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<i>On motion duly made by Susan, seconded by Karl, and approved by all other members it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed.</i>	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<i>Minutes of March 2, 2016. On motion duly made by Tom, seconded by Glenn, and approved by all others it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes as distributed.</i>	
PRESENTATIONS	None.	
BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	<u>On work of sub-committee looking at issues to do with entrenching and infusing sustainability into TRU curriculum</u> Susan reported that she will attend the Canadian Colleges and Universities Environmental Network (CCUN) conference in Halifax (May 11-13) which has as its theme ‘sustainability in curriculum’.	

She will report back after it.

Susan

Tabled - Dale will report on his draft proposal to have 'sustainability in curriculum' as a topic of discussion for next year's agenda for the teaching colloquium at TRU.

Dale

Possibility of changing scope and name of EAC to the TRU

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC). Wayne reported that the changes to the Terms of Reference went to the Board in February and they were approved. The three main changes to the EAC are: 1) the name will now be the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), 2) a new member position has been created for the Director of Aboriginal Affairs or designate; the Director, Paul Michel, will now sit on the ESAC, and 3) there is a revision to the selection of faculty members, which to include a preference for at least one representative from the Wellness committee. James will adjust the EAC website to reflect all changes and include the new ESAC Terms of Reference. James will also contact Paul Michel about his involvement.

James
James

Using a new Sharepoint Site. James reported that an application has been made and he is awaiting confirmation of a new Sharepoint site. He will report back with further information at the next meeting.

James

Vision for EAC (from present up to 5 years in the future). There was wide agreement to have a half day session, and plan for another half at a later time if it's warranted. James will send another reminder about the Doodle poll asking members to input dates they are available for in early May.

James

Discussion re TRU joining Canadian Colleges and Universities

Environmental Network (CCUN). Tom reported that the Provost's office has conditionally agreed to fund the yearly membership fee for TRU to join. Tom will draft a letter to that office so they can review details before finalizing their commitment.

Tom

TRU Parking proposal issue that TRUSU is spearheading.

James read an email that Warren provided (since he was not able to attend): "We are still working on a proposal for Matt (Milovick)'s consideration. Ultimately, with the proposed Community Trust development, transit, Rideshare and other alternatives to parking will become a priority. We have a meeting May 17 when the committee hopes to finalize a recommendation to Matt. The biggest impact initially on

parking as a result of the Community Trust is to student parking. I have outlined (see graphic below) the first two phases of the development which will take away significant parking from students. Unfortunately, parking is going to become even more of a premium, consequently the need to promote Rideshare and transit. Parking has invested \$10,000 this past year to implement a Rideshare program (<https://www.tru.ca/facilities/parking/rideshare.html>).



Thanks, Warren”

Discussion points after this around the whole TRU parking issue included the following: Michael mentioned a bicycle escalator in Norway as a way to move up hills (similar to in Kamloops), and also that maybe preferential parking could be given to electric or hybrid vehicles, and, finally, that maybe there’s some way to calculate the carbon footprint of each type of vehicle and then parking rates would lessen based on how low the footprint is; Dale mentioned an idea brought up at an ideas festival put on by Arjun Singh several years ago—a large gondola from Mac Island to TRU, and then maybe further to the Aberdeen Mall. Wayne would like to revisit the parking issue at the ESAC Visioning Session (date TBD).

Wayne

Administration of the Sustainability Grant Fund. Tabled due to Crystal’s absence.

Crystal

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Jim reported on five issues: 1) TRU is buying one electric vehicle (Nissan Leaf) and two hybrids (Toyota Camry and Rav4) primarily for regional travel by TRU staff/faculty. All three will be serviced for free through a new alternative transportation maintenance program

that the TRU Trades department will develop. A calculation was conducted by the TRU Sustainability Office (TRUSO) which pointed out that in the long term, acquiring these three vehicles will result in a cost savings compared to the present day model of staff/faculty being reimbursed for travel when they use their own vehicles or rent them. The sign-up process will be administered by TRUSO. When vehicles are free to use, they can also be signed-out by TRU students for local travel (once they pass a vetting process to ensure the vehicles will be well looked after). This will tie-in with a current Kamloops car-share program that is trying to get off the ground. All vehicles will be wrapped with TRU promotional stickers; 2) TRU will start buying renewable natural gas from Fortis, and this will account for 10% of what it buys; 3) the biomass wood boiler at the Williams Lake campus is almost complete; 4) the change-over to LED lights in all of the roughly 19,000 parking and road lights on the Kamloops campus is almost complete; and 5) the TRU Revolving Energy Fund is almost at \$350,000.

- NEW BUSINESS** Waste/composting food from retailers on campus – Tabled due to Amie’s absence. **Amie**
- Discussion re Environmental Achievement Award – Jim reported that TRU President Allen Shaver did not believe that the proper process has been followed of late to hand out this award. Allen claims the award seems to have been adopted over the years but never officially approved. Details for next year’s handing out of the award will be reviewed by Wayne for the next ESAC meeting, and in the meantime the ESAC can give out the award this year. Plus the name should be changed to reflect this committee’s new name: Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award. James will do this and update the website. **Wayne**
James
- CORRESPONDENCE** None.
- NEXT MEETING** May 4, 2016; 12:20 to 2 pm in the TRUSU Boardroom.
- ADJOURNMENT** 1:20 PM.

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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