



**Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

November 7, 2018

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

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
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**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Warren Asuchak; Wilson Bell; Scott Blackford (Vice Chair); Tom Dickenson; Jim Gudjonson; Tina Matthew; Michael Mehta; Meherul Mizu; Bala Nikku; Caitlin Quist; Glen Read; Amie Schellenberg; Peter Tsigaris

**Participating by Teleconference:** Karl Fultz (Chair)

**Absent:**

**Regrets:** Courtney Mason; Nicole Schabus

**Admin Support.:** James Gordon; Melina Smith; Aaron Wiebe; Natalie Yao

**Guests:** Brad Harasymchuk and Ashley Berard

**Others:**

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES** *The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:10 pm by the Vice Chair, Scott Blackford. New member student Meherul Mizu was welcomed.*

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** *On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed.*

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** *Minutes of May 2 and Sept 5, 2018 were accepted. No concerns or objections.*

**PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Brad Harasymchuk and Ashley Berard re the Leadership in Environmental Sustainability Certificate.
  - The Leadership in Environmental Sustainability Certificate is a credential that can be earned in tandem with any credit program (undergraduate or graduate) offered by TRU. Initiated by Peter Tsigaris.
  - The Certificate is a 12 point program including a 1 credit course (ENSU 1000), e-

portfolio, presentation, reflection essay, and environmental leadership work.

- Environmental leadership work includes community volunteer work, green jobs, environmental clubs, etc.
  - Aimed at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students.
  - There are 5 selected faculty who review the e-portfolios upon completion of the program.
  - Students earning this credential will have it formally noted on their official TRU transcript and will have it acknowledged at the convocation ceremony.
  - Idea is to target 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year classes to better promote the program. Some pushback from faculty. Idea to email students directly.
  - Email [asberard@tru.ca](mailto:asberard@tru.ca) for more information.
- b. James Gordon and Aaron Wiebe on the 'nuggets' they learned about at recent AASHE conference in early October.
- Tabled to next meeting due to technical difficulties.

**BUSINESS ARISING  
FROM MINUTES**

- a. Ensuring proper process for awarding Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award for 2019

- there was a motion to accept award processes as drafted, and this motion was passed. The proposals can be provided to anyone who wants to see them.
- The Awards sub-committee requires people. Who from ESAC can sit on it?

All ESAC

- b. Bird window strikes and mortality.
- Proposal on how to reduce campus bird strikes.
  - Across North America, millions of birds strike buildings, with a significant proportion of them end up dying.
  - Comprehensive study, literature review and survey of hot spot zones for bird strikes at TRU completed over Summer 2018.

- There are approximately 50 species of birds who fly through this campus and nest. 50 species of birds to protect. Some species listed on BC Endangered Species list.
- Lincoln sparrow, dark-eyed junco, and Pacific-slope flycatcher are common birds found on campus.
- Product discovered: Feather Friendly bird film. Film is placed on windows to reduce reflections of vegetation which lure in birds. This film is mandated for all buildings in Toronto (policy in place).
- Invested in film for pilot experiment on TRU campus 'hot spots'. Film will be installed prior to the spring migration.
- Key hot spots: Clock Tower, Science Building, House of Learning
- Main level of buildings are of concern with low lying shrubs that easily reflect on the windows.
- During Spring 2019, we will have more data to reflect on film use and bird fatalities. Final report then.
- Application submitted to continue work into Fall 2019 to compare seasons.
- (Karl) hoping to see a policy at TRU for bird film use on windows in the future.
- Comments: Film is placed on outside of windows, expected to have at least a 5 year life cycle. When purchasing and ordering new windows for buildings, film can be printed on before arrival. Cost estimate: \$7400 for pilot experiment: 5 buildings covered (main levels). It's about addressing the problem areas and hotspots - the low-level areas of buildings - addressing 80% of the problem. Idea of getting rid of some of the bushes and replacing vegetation. By using the film however, there is no loss in birds or vegetation. Audio devices placed on buildings to deter birds could affect or be an irritant for humans. In large uninhabited spaces,

they can be good to use. The reputation of the bird film company is high, as the City of Toronto uses this film.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

- a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee. No report.
- b. Sustainable Procurement Framework Sub-Committee. Jim reported that things are moving forward and in progress. The consultant is currently working on sustainable procurement guidelines, with the goal of having a policy in place for TRU purchasing.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim reported that TRU has been awarded STARS Platinum certification. The rest of his report is tabled until the next meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

### All ESAC

- c. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair.
  - From the ESAC Terms of Reference: Chair and Vice-Chair, nominated by the committee and elected at the first meeting of the academic year, are to serve a one year term.
  - Any members can be eligible to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair. Any interest to serve in these positions? Karl, who is at his last meeting as a committee member before his term ends, has re-applied to the ESAC committee and would be happy to serve as Chair again. There is no other interest expressed by committee members to apply for Chair. No interest expressed by committee to apply for Vice-Chair either. If no other interest, Scott will move forward as Vice-Chair again, pending anyone coming forward. Karl who remains interested in Chairing, if he is renewed, can be elected as Chair. Bring forward to next meeting.
  - Suggestion from James to change term to 2 years. Bring forward to next meeting.

- d. Karl discussed possible creation of ESAC zero waste sub-committee.
  - Sub-committee could be populated with volunteers across campus to help. Karl to coordinate with ambassadors.
  - Karl to work with James to get student ambassadors populated, and coordinate resources from Sustainability Office.
  - Motion to construct sub-committee carried.
  - Who from ESAC can sit on this sub-committee?
- e. Courtney seeking information about restarting TRU Sustainability Ambassadors program
  - Due to his absence, carried forward to next meeting.
- f. Meherul Mizu to speak on project 'Greenspace to enhance positivity' (see attachment for details)
  - Study says there's a strong connection between seasonal change and mental health. Proposal to increase amount of greenspace on campus to make positive changes on our mental health and wellbeing, especially during Winter months. Maximize green space on campus. Minimum one plant per classroom.
  - Bring forward for discussion at next meeting after looking at reading materials attached to the minutes

All ESAC

**CORRESPONDENCE** None

**NEXT MEETING** December 5, 2018. 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm in the TRUSU Boardroom.

**ADJOURNMENT** 1:30 PM.

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Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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