



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 5, 2021

Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, held via MS Teams, at
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
Present:	Christine Miller (CHAIR), Dipesh Prema, Carolyn Ives, Christine Adam, James Gordon, Jana Noskova, Jessica Papineau, Meng Sun, Michael Mehta, Nicole Schabus, Petar Hrkac, Peter Tsigaris, Scott Blackford, Tina Matthew.	
Regrets:	Alana Hoare, Natalie Yao, Warren Asuchak.	
Guest:	Simran Kaur, Co-Op Student, Sustainability Office	
Recording Secretary:	Lora Sartori	
CALL TO ORDER	Christine Miller in the Chair. The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.	
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Christine Miller gave the territorial acknowledgement.	
INTRODUCTIONS	Welcome to Simran Kaur, Co-Op Student in the Sustainability Office. The Committee did a round of introductions.	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	On MOTION duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the October 5, 2021 Agenda as distributed.	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	On MOTION duly made it was RESOLVED to adopt the June 2, 2021 Minutes with the following changes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add page numbers to the Minutes; - On page 6 of the Minutes change "Kamloops Affairs Committee" to "Qelmúcw Affairs Committee" 	Lora Sartori
PRESENTATIONS	None	

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community: An Indigenous Community Member and a Community Member at Large.

Possible changes to the Committee was to create a few more positions to our membership.

Possible addition of positions include:

- Indigenous Community Member
- Community Member at Large

Discussion took place regarding if the members could vote, may have quorum issues, scheduling issues.

Input from the Community is a benefit but some concerns by adding voting members.

Michael Mehta - Is it possible to have a voting member but not count them in quorum? Scott said probably not, however there are different types of quorums possible – different percentages. Scott would have to look into this further.

Scott
Blackford

Nicole Schabus - If we are serious about adding these members, they need to be a full voting members not just for presentations. If we want to lower quorum that would be a separate discussion and not related to adding members.

Christine Miller - Not worried about adding one or two numbers to our quorum. If we are serious about reconciliation, we should have a member from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc.

James is in agreement that the Committee should adapt the TOR to allow for an Indigenous Member and a Community Member at Large.

Whatever the Committee decides would have to be approved by Senate.

Motion:

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To have the Terms of Reference amended to add an Indigenous Community Member as a voting member to the Environmental Sustainable Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Nicole Schabus. Seconded by Peter Tsigaris

Discussion:

Carolyn Ives: Would we pay this member? Tina Matthew's office will look after the honorarium for the Indigenous Community Member.

Peter Tsigaris – Does this have to go through the Board of Governors? Scott – yes, the change to the Term of Reference would have to go through this approval as well.

Dipesh Prema – will a doodle poll happen at the start of every term? Christine Miller - Yes, we will send out another doodle poll in January. Faculty knows now what their schedule is for January.

Christine
Miller

Vote: To have the Terms of Reference amended to add an Indigenous Community Member as a voting member to the Environmental Sustainable Advisory Committee.

12 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Scott Blackford).

Christine will work on putting this change to the Terms of Reference to Senate and Board of Governors.

James suggests to have the discussion regarding a Community Member at Large at this meeting.

James said the Sustainability Office will be able to supply an honorarium for the Community Member at Large.

Jana Noskova left meeting.

Motion:

Christine
Miller

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To have the Terms of Reference amended to add a Community Member at Large as a voting member to the Environmental Sustainable Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Michael Mehta. Seconded by Christine Adam

11 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Scott Blackford).

ii. Change to Terms of Reference to give vote to new Sustainability Office position (Manager of Sustainability Programs); currently occupied by James Gordon

There was an electronic vote to give James Gordon a vote. That vote passed.

Christine
Miller

The Terms of Reference will have to be changed prior to James being able to vote.

**REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES**

a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee – Report by Christine Miller

Had a meeting where they refined their perspective learning outcomes. Next steps to start the new course gambit as they go through a sustainability review and then a curricular review.

Carolyn Posted:

By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Described sustainability concepts as they apply to a local community.
- Differentiate between local indigenous and other world views, including how each interprets and impacts ecological knowledge.
- Apply Indigenous approach of Kw’seltnéws to analyze the interconnectedness of all life and living systems. (Kw’seltnéws – we are all related and interconnect with nature, each other, and all things)
- Assess impacts of colonization on the land and local Indigenous peoples.
- Explore how Indigenous approaches to environmental stewardship will help us plan for future generations.

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- Engage with local community through a project about a locally relevant sustainability issue, such as food security, water protection, air quality, sustainable ranching, community planning, or another topic from the UN Sustainable Development Goals that is relevant to the local community.

b. Awards Sub-Committee – Report by Michael Mehta
3 Environmental Sustainability Awards – Student Achievement, Faculty and Staff achievement, Tom Owen Award.

Need to start the process in November to advertise for these awards.

c. ESAC Zero Waste Sub-Committee – Report by James Gordon

Working on the Reusable Cutlery Program from upcycled cutlery from second hand stores and bags are made from upcycled bed sheets.

Plastic stir sticks are being replaced by wooden sticks.

Working on take out containers.

Will be starting on cigarette but recycling program.

Michael asked if there is a way to bench mark the reusable cutlery. – Aramark, TRUSU, Culinary all said they will get rid of plastic cutlery. Spa Hills can take plastic food base polymer cutlery in their program. We will not have any plastic cutlery on campus.

Michael Mehta – said if you need more cutlery? – request donation from faculty and staff. James said this has been done through email and social media.

Had first meeting of the Sustainable Purchasing Subcommittee – 1st meeting was October 4, 2021.

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One item is to start some type of indigenous purchasing framework. There was a webinar where the Victoria Port had a framework for this.

We will ask Reeve Consulting who specializes in sustainable purchasing for input.

Goals: want to align work with Stars Report. Did 8 sustainable workshops last May and will be doing more workshops May 2022.

Dipesh has done sustainable purchasing in the past – has taken a long time in the past – will there be a quick way to purchase because that can be sustainable as well?

James said he will reach out to Eric and Shannon and Dipesh for a further discussion on this. James Gordon

d. ESAC Core Theme Planning Committee – Report by Alana Hoare

- The 2021 results for the Core Theme Sustainability are being shared with TRU's governing bodies. A special presentation is scheduled for Provosts' Council this month.
- The Sustainability website is a tool that committee members can use to track our progress towards mission fulfilment.
- The working group will resume meetings later in the Fall.

Biodiversity Subcommittee:

Pete Hrkac
James Gordon
Nicole Schabus
Meng Sun
Christine Miller

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT Report by Warren Asuchak, AVP of Campus Infrastructure, Sustainability and Ancillary Services

The Energy Dance will be Nov 5 –all of TRU, as well as the other 24 BC public universities and colleges are invited. It's about energy conservation awareness and having fun with those in your covid bubble on a Friday night!

Regarding the Low Carbon District Energy System - the energy hub building, that will be built next to convocation wall, will be built by TRU at approximately \$3 million. TRU will also have to spend between 1 and 1.5 million to retrofit all of the other buildings for the system. The contract with the main contractor, Creative Energy, is almost signed. There's some minor issues to work through regarding insurance and risk management. The contract should be signed within the month. Phase 1 for the project should be finished by 2025, incorporating nine major buildings. The remaining two phases with all of the other buildings should be done by 2030. According to Creative Energy when the whole project is finished it will be one of the most advanced district energy systems in the world and will reduce TRU's carbon emissions from heating all buildings by 95% compared to 2020 levels.

Other notable energy projects involve the BC Hydro program called Continuous Optimization, and this year the Open Learning building, Old Main as well as the main Williams Lake building will be part of the program; which is all to make sure energy systems are running as efficiently as possible. TRU will also be signing a contract with BC Hydro to bring in a certified energy management system called ISO 5001. East Village will have all gas-fired boilers replaced with electric ones by the end of 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Reignited Staff and Faculty Sustainability Ambassador Program – James Gordon

James showed the Draft TRU Staff & Faculty Sustainability Ambassador Program TOR. Trying to align it with the Stars Report. Goal will be to get an ambassador from every teaching and non-teaching department at TRU. Time commitment would be 1 hour a week for one year.

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	<p>Document will be put in the chat and if you have any questions, please contact James.</p> <p>b. Global Conference on Sustainability – James Gordon</p> <p>Free for the 1st 200 people Aashe Conference. – spread the news – October 12 – 15, 2021</p> <p>c. TRU Tree Campus Program – James Gordon</p> <p>The Program launched on September 22. Three planting events will take place on October 7, 14 and 21.</p>	
CORRESPONDENCE	None	
NEXT MEETING	Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.	