

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

December 4, 2013

Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the TRUSU Boardroom,  
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 4:30 pm.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>Present:</b>	M. Gordon; J. Gudjonson; H. Hove; C. Huscroft; S. Learie; D. Parkes; S. Purdy (Chair); J. Sparks; L. Tabata; P. Tsigaris	
<b>Participating by Teleconference:</b>	None	
<b>Regrets:</b>	D. Crespin-Mueller; T. Dickinson; M. Harrison (on leave); ; J. Lam; B. Mackay; G. Read; I. Rich-McQuay	
<b>Guests:</b>	None	
<b>Others:</b>	J. Gordon (note-taker, Office of Environment and Sustainability)	
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	<i>The meeting being duly constituted for the conduct of business, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.</i>	
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	<i>It was moved (P. Tsigaris), seconded (H. Hove) and passed that the agenda be adopted with the following changes: discuss Green Teams in the Director's Report, and discuss a time change for this committee from the current 4:30 to 6:00 PM to 4:00 to 5:30 PM.</i>	
<b>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</b>	<u>Minutes of November 6, 2013</u> <i>On motion duly made by L. Tabata, and seconded by P. Tsagaris, it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 6, 2013 as distributed with one change: to remove "Maternity" from Michelle Harrison's leave status.</i>	

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<b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b>	<p><b><u>Renewal of EAC membership for existing Members</u></b>            The Senate Steering Committee will meet on December 16 to decide on the renewal of EAC memberships for P. Tasigaris, D. Parkes, and C. Huscroft. J. Sparks will report back on the progress of this, as well as the process to attract another faculty member to join the EAC, since I. Rich-Mackay has stepped down.            The membership term for the following members ends in December 2013, so steps for them to renew their memberships or to step down from being members will have to be taken in the new year: D. Crespin-Mueller, H. Hove, and S. Purdy.</p> <p><b><u>TRU Environmental Achievement Award</u></b>            Due to the fact that there has not been a recent Presidential Council meeting, J. Sparks has not been able to enquire about having the award become a regular award given out at the April TRU staff awards ceremony. Once the council meets next (December or February), J. Sparks will report back on the outcome of the discussion. Hopefully, there will be adequate time to realize the goal for this April.</p> <p><b><u>EAC website</u></b>  <a href="http://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/eac.html">http://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/eac.html</a>            J. Gordon reported that the EAC site has been converted by the TRU Marketing Department to the 'new look' consistent with most all other senate committees, and that he has made a number of updates to it. However, he still has a few updates to go (listed below) and will finish these by the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• post past Minutes and Agendas</li> <li>• add links for TRU Eco Club, TRU Environmental Law Club, Enactus</li> <li>• post key documents (Transportation Demand Management Study, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>EAC Letter to TRU Strategic Priorities Advisory Committee (SPAC)</u></b>            The EAC sub-committee of Susan (lead), Jim, Sharman and James produced a letter regarding the EAC's recommendation of ensuring the final version of the TRU Strategic Priorities document has strong environmental sustainability goals and values in it, and</p>	<p><b>J. Sparks            D. Crespin-Mueller, H. Hove, and S. Purdy</b></p> <p><b>J. Sparks</b></p> <p><b>P. Tsigaris</b></p> <p><b>J. Gordon</b></p>

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that TRU should strive for the creation of some sort of 'Sustainability Centre'. L. Tabata wasn't sure exactly what such a centre would be; either conceptual, a building, a partnership of some sort between faculties and maybe TRU offices, etc.. P. Tsigaris informed the EAC that at a recent SPAC meeting during a slide show which sparked discussion about important values that TRU should strive for and which should be enshrined in the 'values section' of the final Strategic Priorities document, environmental sustainability was mentioned. Based on this information and further discussion that followed, it was motioned by C. Huscroft, seconded by S. Learie and passed by all that the letter will be amended by S. Purdy (lead) and C. Huscroft to reflect the EAC's support for enshrining environmental sustainability as a TRU value, and that it supports the creation of a Sustainability Centre which would, amongst other things, put a focus on teaching and a secondary focus on research. S. Purdy will then send the letter to the SPAC.

**S. Purdy  
&  
C. Huscroft**

**Update on Transportation Demand Management Study**

L. Tabata reported on a discussion between he and J. Gudjonson regarding where things are at with implementing aspects of the study. He stressed that what is needed now is not consultation but rather action on the study's recommendations; for instance a review of the number of car-pool parking stalls, which will take place in the Summer. He also mentioned that the study was one of the source documents used to inform the Master Planning process.

**L. Tabata**

**Future Direction of the EAC**

Susan asked members to consider what future directions they would like the EAC to pursue and here are the ideas put forth:

**TRU Sustainability Centre** – P. Tsigaris put forth the motion, seconded by S. Purdy and passed by all, that an EAC sub-committee be formed to draft a 10-15 page proposal outlining what a 'TRU Sustainability Centre' would look like and do, and present it to the Academic Planning Priorities Committee (APPC) by (when?). The sub-committee members are: Peter, Crystal, James, Melissa, Sharman and Susan. James will send out a doodle poll to these members about when to have the first meeting in 2014.

**J. Gordon**

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	<p><b>Green Teams</b> – In order to deal with some of the on-going environmental sustainability issues around campus, as Les mentioned, it was put forward that the TRU Green Teams initiative be reinvigorated. Jim committed his office (TRUOES) to drafting a plan to do so. Another step which all EAC members were asked to work on is to record who the current ‘green giants’ are around campus (the really committed environmental stewards). These people will be approached once the plan is in working shape in order to find out if they would be willing to commit to certain duties on a Green Team. Peter offered information about the SoBE team that was active until not long ago (the Sustainability Standing Committee under Laura Lamb). He will make any pertinent information about it available if anyone wants to consider using it as a template for organizing other teams around campus. James will investigate the SoBE green team (website and other information sources) in order to find out how it’s structured and what it has done. Some activities around which green teams could get involved in include research, operations, hosting speakers, and project work. TRUOES will put together a draft of a TRU Green Teams Terms of Reference and a basic game plan for review by the EAC.</p>	<p>All EAC members</p> <p>J. Gordon &amp; J. Gudjonson</p>
	<p><b>Study on TRU Paper Use</b> – Crystal suggested this in order to find out how much paper the campus uses. Jim mentioned that there is a way to equate paper use with CO2 production. Currently, most paper at TRU originates from three sources: Printshop, Procurement Services and the Bookshop. C. Huscroft and J. Gudjonson will discuss this initiative further and report back to the EAC by February.</p>	<p>C. Huscroft and J. Gudjonson</p>
	<p><b>Battery Recycling Bins</b> – James will work on getting more installed round campus.</p>	<p>J. Gordon</p>
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	None	
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEES</b>	None	

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<b>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b>	<p><b>Sustainability Grant Fund</b> - Three proposals were submitted from the eight pre-proposals. Of the pre-proposals, two were expanded upon into Proposals, two were combined into one Proposal, three said they were too busy now and would re-submit for the Spring intake, and one we never heard back from. The next step is for the Review Committee to meet next week and decide on whether any proposals receive funding. The submission dates for next Fall will be moved up a bit to avoid pushing into exams like this time. Over-all, the process has gone very well.</p> <p><b>Composting Pilot Project</b> - The Jora 5100 in-vessel composter was successfully installed in the lobby of the Culinary Arts building; the TRU Coop research student, Allysha Sorba, has been hired to work on the 6 month composting pilot program; the composter training session takes place next week; small and big compost bins have been purchased and will be distributed around campus at key locations/offices; and the pilot will begin in mid-January. There will be a contest to name the composter and James will organize this.</p> <p><b>Plastic Beverage Bottle Review</b> – Tom Owen and Kaitlin Boyd conducted the review last Spring and concluded that a ban of plastic bottles on campus is not warranted. This is based mainly on considering the over-all environmental sustainability effects of using each of three types of bottle materials—plastic, aluminum and glass—and that banning plastic was really not that bad when compared to the other two. Such important factors as material extraction and processing; transportation (which, for instance, would be costlier for heavier materials like glass); health (it was determined that the type of plastic used in bottles is not a factor); and recycling rates were considered. Recycling rates, however, were much lower for plastic and for this reason the TRU vendors have agreed to levy a 10% tax on the sale of plastic bottles, which would then go into a fund to help pay for improved recycling on campus. It's estimated that \$6000 to \$10,000 could be raised from this tax. For those opposed to paying this tax, they have the option of buying drinks in aluminum cans. Of the 170,000 plastic bottles sold on</p>	<b>J. Gordon</b>

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campus yearly, 66,000 are for water. One idea that arose from the discussion is to use part of the tax money to fund more and/or improved water bottle refill stations. New ones should be located near existing vending machines with excellent signage (for instance in Sciences and A & E), and existing ones need improved signage. Another idea is to offer anyone who wants one a new refillable water bottle, compliments of the Office of Environment and Sustainability. The next step is for Jim to form a committee which will decide on steps to achieve a 10% reduction in the number of plastic bottles used on campus by 2016.

**J. Gudjonson**

**Electric Vehicle Suitability Assessment Program** – The computer chip data loggers were installed in 14 TRU vehicles to assess driving patterns. The loggers were removed after three weeks and returned to the head office so that they could be analyzed. The analysis will show which, if any, vehicles should be replaced – when they come to the end of their regular life-cycle – with an electric or highbred vehicle.

**Energy Projects:** Three initiatives are all moving ahead. The Continuous Optimization Program (COP) is on-going; and the two other projects--Occupancy Sensors in New Res, and solar photo voltaic (PV) panels on TRUSU's Independent Centre--are being reviewed to determine if they are feasible projects to pursue.

<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	Need replacement for I. Rich-Mackay on the EAC (for details, see first paragraph under Business Arising from Minutes).
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Next meeting: January 8, 2014 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm.
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

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*Signature of Chairperson, Chair*

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