



Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 2, 2020

Due to Covid19, the committee meeting was held virtually using MS Teams
Thompson Rivers University
Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 12:00 PM

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE		
Present:	Airini, Dillon Alexandre (designate for Warren Asuchak), Scott Blackford, Christin Chen, Karl Fultz (Vice Chair), Robyn Hollas, Pete Hrkac, Carolyn Ives, Tina Matthew, Michael Mehta, Christine Miller (Chair), Bala Nikku, Jana Noskova, Nicole Schabus, Meng Sun, Peter Tsigaris, Thamindu Widyaratne	
Participating by Teleconference:	none	
Absent:	none	
Regrets:	Dipesh Prema	
Admin Support:	James Gordon	
Guests:	none	
Others:	Alana Hoare (Office of Quality Assurance)	
Vacancies:	none	
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES	The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:10 pm by the Chair, Christine Miller, who welcomed everyone. A special welcome took place for the Dillon Alexandre, a designate for Warren, who could not attend.	
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Christine Miller gave the territorial acknowledgement.	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	On MOTION duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed, with one minor addition by James: a brief update on the STARS report.	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	Minutes of Nov 4 were accepted.	

PRESENTATIONS None

**BUSINESS
ARISING FROM
MINUTES**

5a. Karl reported that Senate voted in favour of the president signing the climate emergency letter at their Nov 23 meeting, and that once the Board of Governors also votes in favour at their meeting in a few days, then Dr Fairbiarn will do so.

Nicole recommended that Marcom be engaged in helping to promote this once the B of G also votes in favour. James said he will fill-in a 'work request' with Marcom.

James

Thank you Peter, Nicole, Karl and Christine! Congratulations on helping to achieve this outcome.

Thamindu reported that TRUSU is still reluctant to sign the letter. James will contact Thamindu and Christin about next steps.

James

5b. James reported on the plan for ESAC members to get involved in the Senate's Triennial Review Report. Senate will email all ESAC members a survey link that they need to fill in. From Senate: "ESAC... requests likely to go out sometime in December 2020 with a return date in March 2021."

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEES**

6a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee; report by Carolyn. Carolyn and both co-Chairs, Christine and Crystal Huscroft, plan to meet next week to discuss course learning outcomes for the new Indigenous sustainability course that is being created – they want to create a workshop so subcommittee members can determine outcomes for that specific course.

**Christine,
Carolyn**

6b). Awards Sub-committee report by Michael Mehta, Chair. The terms of reference are in order for the three awards and now it's time to seek nominations for them. James and Michael will meet to discuss steps to do this.

**Michael,
James**

6c. ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee; report by James, Chair. James and Robyn Hollas will form a focus group in January to discuss steps for TRU to eliminate the 6 types of single-use plastic items that the federal government is mandating be eliminated. Also, the Minutes from the sub-committee meeting on November 20 are pasted at the bottom of this document.

**James and
Robyn**

6d. ESAC Core Theme Planning sub-committee. Report by Alana Hoare, Chair. Report on last two pages of these minutes.

**DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Warren was not present so he asked James to report for him:

- Warren and colleagues are presenting the low carbon district energy system to the Board of Directors on Friday, Dec 4. If things go well, then he hopes to sign a Terms Agreement next week. Construction to begin 2022. Once complete, the project will reduce the GHGs by 90/95%. The remaining CO2 will be offset by buying offsets. Once built, the key infrastructure will help meet our target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

NEW BUSINESS

James went over structure of new TRU Sustainability Ambassador Program that would involve student, staff and faculty.

Airini was wished well as she prepares for her new role at the University of Saskatchewan in January 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEXT MEETING

January 13, 2021- 12:00 to 1:30 pm—Virtual via MS Teams

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 1:30pm

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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



Zero Waste Sub-Committee

Part of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda – November 20, 2020

Due to Covid-19, the meeting will be virtual via MS Teams

Time: 11 AM – 12 PM

Location: On-Line Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES – James Gordon, Robyn Hollas, Danna Bach, Rose Gountas, Karl Fultz present. Karl scribe for today’s meeting, and Rose has volunteered to do it for the next three months starting December.**
2. **TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA - adopted**
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES – Meeting of Oct 13, 2020. adopted**
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES of Oct 13 meeting:**
 - a. Review and adoption of draft Terms of Reference. **Reviewed and adopted.**
 - b. Progress of the two cigarette butt Ballot Boxes. Installed as a part of a pilot at the Old Main and Trades smoking shelters once complete. Rose reported they are now installed, being used, although butts still litter the ground. Still too soon to say how much of a difference it is making. Rose reports the Ballot Boxes are locked and still in one piece. Current question: Hockey vs Soccer. **ACTION: Rose to monitor boxes and report results next meeting.**
 - c. **TABLED.** Handheld vacuum cigarette butt cleaning idea. James has information on industrial strength unit. The basic idea is that the vacuum will be purchased by TRU, and then any TRU community member can check it out (like a library book) if they want to go suck up some butts. James reported that he talked to a librarian who reminded him that if it’s used to vacuum butts that it will likely start to smell like butts over time, and this is not something the Library wants in the building (good point).

James though maybe it could live in the Bike Storage shed. **Due to COVID, this item is TABLED until further notice, and removed from the Agenda for now.**

- d. Posters for Designated Smoking Areas (DSA's). Work needs to be done on the DSA's posters and signage. We reviewed the existing poster, which has not been effective, and has not proven to be durable. Discussed possible new strategies. **ACTION: James and Robyn to do some more research on successful campaigns, especially in Kamloops city, and report back next meeting.**
- e. **Zero waste videos. James to report on.** There were ten submissions, the top five won gift certificates to TRU Food Services for \$50 each, one was for not throwing your cigarette butts on the ground, which will be put to good use. The winning entries have been posted to Social Media, but won't be posted on the screens at TRU for now as MarComm felt there wasn't enough traffic right now to justify it, and they are too busy with other projects.
- f. **Paper single use coffee cups.** James will ask Ancillary Services, the Student Union, and Culinary Arts to find out if they can divulge how many paper single use coffee cups they go through each month.
 - i. Contracts for Tim Hortons and Starbucks.
ACTION: Robyn to dig up 12 months of data from Timmies and Starbucks on Campus to find out how many have been used.
- g. **Eco-container program** update from James. We started with 1000 and we are down to 50. They are not being returned, some are kept, and many end up in the garbage. **Update:** nothing is happening because of COVID right now. James reached out to UBC but have not heard back. Robyn reached out to McKewan and they don't give them away for free, they use a token system. The system is more successful in a dining hall scenario, while our food outlets are spread throughout the campus. McKewan does have an issue with returns, even with a five dollar deposit. Refunds on returns are then used to purchase more containers. Discussed alternatives and strategies. Incentives? Assign a higher cost per container? Focus groups with the students for more ideas? We know it has worked at CAC but not in Old Main – the former is sit and eat, the latter is more grab and go. We also know this problem is related to the single-use item and elimination of plastics issues. **ACTION: James to set up the Student Focus groups with Robyn and Jan Bissell (who works with Robyn) in January.**
- h. **TRU plan Single-Use Item Elimination Task Force.**

- i. Details on Federal Single-Use Plastic Ban. As of October 2020:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/single-use-plastics-1.5753327>
- ii. **ACTION:** Each member of this committee to send James by November 4th a list of items of what they think should be eliminated.
The single-use plastics that will be banned are:

1. Grocery checkout bags
2. Straws
3. Stir sticks
4. Six-pack rings
5. Plastic cutlery
6. Food takeout containers made from hard-to-recycle plastics (like black plastic packaging)

The regulations to introduce the ban will be finalized by the end of 2021. The move is part of a larger effort by the nation to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030.

Back to brainstorming: here's my initial list, in no particular priority order:

- Plastic cutlery
- Kurig cups
- Paper coffee cups
- Shrink-wrap packages of printing from Printshop
- Plastic stir sticks
- All single-use items for on-campus catering
 - plates,
 - cups,
 - glasses,
 - napkins
- Plastic check-out bags

Karl: "I want to see the straws, plastic rings, bags, and containers eliminated as a priority as harm wildlife."

Dipesh:

Shrink wrap print shop

Paper cups

Straws

Plastic stir sticks

Bart: "With my suggestions, I'm taking an inside-out approach, as in change from within (employees) and working our way out (students, others).

For the time being, my list sits at three:

Kurig cups

plastic stir sticks

all single-use items for on-campus catering

ACTION: James to meet with Robyn to discuss the issue further, which will have a big impact on TRU, then call a meeting of the **Single-Use Item Elimination Task Force**, and report back at the next Zero Waste meeting Dec 17th.

6. **NEW BUSINESS - none**
7. **CORRESPONDENCE - none**
8. **NEXT MEETING?** – December 17, 11 am to 12 pm—Virtual via MS Teams
9. **ADJOURNMENT: 12 noon.**

Core Theme Planning Notes – Sustainability

December 1, 2020

Notes by Christine Miller

First Breakout: Responses to Standard One



Second Breakout: Responses to Inter-Institutional Comparison

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do we want to limit ourselves to British Columbia? Why not western Canada, and or the Pacific Northwest? Regardless of funding structure, we can have the same goals, or aspire to the same results/mindsets/outcomes
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maybe this doesn't matter - we don't have to have the same FTE to have the same goals
Other NCCWU accredited institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SFU and Capilano University are both accredited through NCCWU - why not start with these two?
STARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We should keep this - it compares us to over 700 other post-secondary institutions