



Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 5, 2020

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

| HEADING | ITEM / DISCUSSION | ACTION |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------|
| ATTENDANCE | <p>Present: Karl Fultz (Chair), Jim Gudjonson, Pete Hrkac, Carolyn Ives, Tina Matthew, Christine Miller, Jana Noskova, Dev Shah, Nicole Schabus, Peter Tsigaris</p> <p>Participating by Teleconference: none</p> <p>Absent: Warren Asuchak</p> <p>Regrets: Raikhan Amanzholova, Scott Blackford, Tom Dickinson (Vice Chair), Bala Nikku, Jessica Papineau, Dipesh Prema,</p> <p>Admin Support: James Gordon and Canyon Sinclair</p> <p>Guests: none</p> <p>Others: none</p> <p>Vacancies: 1 faculty member</p> | |
| CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES | <p>The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:054 pm by the Chair, Karl Fultz, who welcomed everyone.</p> | |
| TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | <p>Tina Mathews gave the territorial acknowledgement.</p> | |
| ADOPTION OF AGENDA | <p>On MOTION duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed with the change that today's presentation to Haley Feller for the 2019 Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards will happen at the March meeting.</p> | |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | <p>Minutes of January 8th were accepted.</p> | |

PRESENTATIONS none

**BUSINESS
ARISING FROM
MINUTES**

5a) Karl to report on any news from the ESAC motion at the December meeting to A) recommend to the TRU Board of Governors (at their Feb 24 meeting) and members of the TRU Senate that they sign a climate emergency letter, and B) to report on the discussion he and Dev had with the TRUSU Executive to find out if they are willing to sign the letter as well.

Karl reported that nothing was presented to the TRU Board of Governors (BofG) since it was decided to wait until the BofG could read over the new TRU Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan (CSSP) first. Jim reported that they now have the CSSP and are satisfied with it.

Dev and Karl met with the TRUSU executive committee. The first motion was for TRUSU to sign the climate emergency letter as well. This motion did not pass and TRUSU declined to sign as they felt that they couldn't achieve the goals presented in the letter since they are only tenants of their building. Furthermore, they have limited control over capital expenses. The second motion passed: to support Karl and Dev making the presentation to the BofG.

Next steps are to present to the BofG, ideally at their Feb 24 meeting. Nicole stressed that this is an "emergency" and that haste is important. As such, Dev and Karl will ideally present at the February 24th meeting if board approves the presentation. Otherwise they will present in March. Nicole offered to provide legal assistance if needed and this was appreciated.

**Karl, Dev,
Jim**

Nicole

Action: TINA and KARL to talk to PAUL MICHEL about bringing up the climate emergency letter with the TRU President.

Tina, Karl

5b). Tabled. Dean's Council has not met. Tom to continue to pursue the following: to report on his discussion with the Dean's Council about whether they would support further

Tom

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEES**

discussion on the ESAC motion to create a team-taught interdisciplinary sustainability course that would help students meet the new and upcoming General Education requirements.

6a)TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee. Committee report by Carolyn on the following: The sub-committee made a small change to their terms of reference as the original idea for a sustainable interdisciplinary course may be challenging to achieve. With these changes and a broader range of information to be considered in the new course, a temporary increase in membership is likely necessary. The working title for the course is 'Indigenous Interdisciplinary Sustainability'. Furthermore, the new course will need dean approval, ideally from the dean of the faculty that will house the new course. A motion was passed at the Jan 8 ESAC meeting for committee permission to start the process of course creation. Tom and Tina said they will start this process.

Tom, Tina

Carolyn reported that the Sub Committee hasn't met yet. She has invited a wide number of individuals from TRU and the greater external community to join. Tina will co-lead the meeting. Carolyn stated that the primary goals of the meeting are to have individuals be part of the sub-committee, a working group, or as an external consultant. Karl noted that this committee's goals tie in closely to this year's ISCN theme.

6b). Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards for 2020 (students x2 and staff/faculty x1) – James reported that several nominations were submitted. **Action.** He will consult with the awards Terms of Reference And then contact Scott and Jim about next steps to select winners. There is no firm timeline for the selection process but ideally the winner will be notified in the next few weeks and be awarded near IDays.

James

6c). ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee. Committee report by James, Chair. The committee met on January 30th and agreed

to create a Terms of Reference, and a new Single-Use Item Elimination Task Force. Also discussed:

- The two ballot box ashtray devices are being modified at Trades.
- The subcommittee has come to the consensus that a handheld vacuum cleaner for cig butt clean-up would be beneficial. Tina suggested that instead of a vacuum, brooms and dustpans with a cable to connect them to the shelters in key locations may also work. James will look into this. There was concern of trash fires from this.
- Danna is taking steps to get better anti-littering signage in smoking shelters.
- Dipesh and James are working on simple 15s – 30s videos to show students about how to deal with waste responsibly. Christine said that her class will be creating 4 videos on Zero Waste Stations. Dev mentioned that some of the Sustainability Ambassadors are also making some video content.
- Regarding the formation of the new Single-Use Item Elimination Task Force, the task force expressed interest in doing away with single use coffee cups on campus. They plan to start with data collection including how many cups are used on campus, and when the current Tim Horton and Starbucks contracts are done. Someone in the meeting said that Exeter University has a good plan to deal with single use items and is worth looking into. Jim mentioned that the Canadian Federal Government has released a plan stating that they want to ban specific single-use plastic items by 2021. It would be interesting to know items fall under this ban. James will investigate this. TRU should try and be ahead of the Governmental ban. Jim also mentioned that he and Canyon have done some research into which institutions have banned cups, and that Priority 2 from the new TRU Sustainability Office Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan (Eliminate Single-Use Plastics and Other Single-Use Items) should be included in the new Terms of Reference for the sub-

James

James

committee. Karl will resend the draft of the T of R to sub- **Karl**
committee members.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Standing report on note-worthy energy projects and plans.

Jim mentioned that TRU has finished the procurement process and Creative Energy has the contract. Creative Energy is a utility company and they will be helping with the planning of a three phase electrification plan.

1. Phase 1 of 3: All Reach developments, Old main, Sciences, and TCC. The plan is to install a low carbon electric heat system that captures heat and warms the TCC pool when needed. Users can pull out or put in heat when they need it from the loop. The aim is to decarbonize that whole zone of campus. Designing first phase next week. The project should cost around \$15 million but BC Hydro is keen to contribute \$ 2 million to the project. Creative is responsible to come up with the capital, and then TRU will pay them back over 30 years. Effectively get new system at no cost. Shovels in ground in about a year. Good timing with the TCC pool being revamp. Expect it to cost \$30 million for all three phases. Will get done over 4-6 years. As soon as contractors are on phase 1, phase 2 will start. TRU is well on track to becoming carbon neutral. Any buildings that we expect to be decommissioned are not included in the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Peter provided an update on TRU being a signatory to Talloires Declaration of the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future - <http://ulsf.org/96-2/#Canada>
It's a declaration made in the 1990s and signed by a number of universities about researching, teaching, and operating sustainably. TRU signed in 2010 but was removed from the website for no apparent reason. Once this was brought to their attention, TRU was put back on the site. The declaration is signed by 500 universities worldwide in over 50 countries. It was mentioned that reference to the declaration should be

made in the climate emergency letter discussed earlier.

- b. Karl lead a discussion on growing food in shipping containers at TRU, based on an article from Acadia University (https://www.universityaffairs.ca/news/news-article/acadia-thinks-inside-the-box-on-food-sustainability-solution/?utm_source=University+Affairs+e-newsletter&utm_campaign=db59841c06-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_01_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_314bc2_ee29-db59841c06-426941677)

The focus is on healthy, affordable and sustainable food. Is there interest in developing this type of thing at TRU? Jim has talked to Glenn Read about this in the past and he's interested. If someone was interested in taking this on there is probably money through Glen and the Sustainability Grant Fund.

- CORRESPONDENCE** Jim reported that the TRU President committed to coming to the April 1 ESAC meeting.
- NEXT MEETING** March 4th 2020 - HOL 402 - 12:00 – 1:30pm
- ADJOURNMENT** Adjourned at 1:00pm

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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