

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 8, 2014

Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the TRUSU Boardroom,
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 4:00 pm.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE		
Present:	M. Gordon; J. Gudjonson; C. Huscroft; J. Lam; S. Purdy (Chair); J. Sparks; L. Tabata	
Participating by Teleconference:	None	
Regrets:	D. Crespin-Mueller; T. Dickinson; M. Harrison (on leave); H. Hove; S. Learie; B. Mackay; D. Parkes; G. Read; I. Rich-McQuay; P. Tsigaris	
Guests:	N. Yao	
Others:	J. Gordon (note-taker, Office of Environment and Sustainability)	
CALL TO ORDER	<i>The meeting being duly constituted for the conduct of business, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.</i>	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<i>It was moved (J. Lam), seconded (C. Huscroft) and passed that the agenda be adopted with one change: Since 4e and 5a are the same (Report on first meeting of EAC sub-committee discussing vision of a TRU 'Sustainability Centre') the report will only take place during 5a, Report of Committees, and will be done by S. Purdy since P. Tsigaris is absent.</i>	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<u>Minutes of December 4, 2013</u> <i>On motion duly made by C. Huscroft, and seconded by L. Tabata, it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 4, 2013 as distributed.</i>	

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	<p><u>Renewal of EAC membership for existing Members</u> J. Sparks reported that matters to do with this issue go through the Senate Steering Committee before being put to Senate, and requests from the applicants must be made in writing to this committee (email is fine). P. Tasigaris, D. Parkes and C. Huscroft all followed this protocol and responded to J. Sparks' secretary's email request. The Senate will decide on this matter and make their appointments at the January 28 Senate meeting.</p> <p><u>TRU Environmental Achievement Award</u> Regarding the issue of having the award become a regular award given out at the April TRU staff awards ceremony, J. Sparks reported that the issue will be discussed at the President's council meeting on January 29; he will report back after this. Assuming a favourable response, this will hopefully still allow enough time for everything to be ready for the April ceremony.</p> <p><u>EAC website</u> (http://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/eac.html) J. Gordon reported that the EAC site has been updated.</p> <p><u>EAC Letter to TRU Strategic Priorities Advisory Committee (SPAC)</u> The EAC sub-committee formed to advocate for strong environmental sustainability representation in the SPAC submitted a letter December 6 to the SPAC along these lines. S. Purdy (head of the sub-committee; with other members J. Gordon, J. Gudjonson, C. Huscroft and S. Learie) received a very positive response on December 13 from co-Chair of the SPAC, Alan Shaver, President of TRU. S. Purdy will follow-up with Tom Dickinson, who sits on the SPAC, to find out if he thinks any further advocacy action is required by the EAC in order to ensure the environment is well represented in the SPAC, as well as what the final steps of the SPAC are as it nears the end of its mandate.</p> <p><u>Green Teams</u> No draft report to discuss; tabled until next meeting. J. Gudjonson and C. Huscroft will continue investigation and report back at the next meeting.</p>	<p>J. Sparks</p> <p>S. Purdy</p> <p>J. Gudjonson & C. Huscroft</p>

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	<p><u>Study on TRU Paper Use</u> It was agreed that it would be valuable for the TRU Office of Environment and Sustainability (TRUOES) to create a simple annual report on paper usage and tips to reduce usage. The report should contain usage data and TRU population size from the last three years in order to provide comparative data. D. Crespin-Mueller's office, Institutional Planning and Analysis, was 'volunteered' to help with this analysis. Challenging other universities to a friendly 'Paper Reduction Competition' (as a percentage from the previous year) was another idea put forth in the name of motivating the TRU community to reduce paper use.</p>	<p>D. Crespin-Mueller & J. Gordon</p>
	<p><u>Battery Recycling Bins</u> James will obtain information from Facilities about the following: where the bins are located, how many batteries are collected and by who, and where they go once collected. It was suggested that the collection system should be better promoted through TRUSU, which James will pursue.</p>	<p>J. Gordon</p>
PRESENTATIONS	None	
REPORT OF COMMITTEES	<p><u>First meeting of EAC sub-committee discussing vision of a TRU 'Sustainability Centre'</u> S. Purdy reported that four other EAC members besides herself attended on January 7: S. Learie, J. Gordon, M. Gordon, J. Gudjonson and P. Tsigaris. In general, it was a useful brainstorming session that identified broad areas of interest both within TRU and in the broader Kamloops community that might lead to a more clear concept of what such a centre might some day become. The sub-committee as agreed to meet as least two more times and report back on these discussions. Upon hearing this, members of the EAC agreed that it would be a good idea to pursue the possibility of creating some sort of 'TRU Green Student Guide' (hard-copy and digital) that would inform students about all things environmentally sustainable on campus. Who would like to head up this initiative?</p>	<p>Which EAC member?</p>

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT	<p>Sustainability Grant Fund (SGF) - Three proposals were submitted from the eight pre-proposals and of those one was chosen to receive the amount of funds it requested. The submission, co-presented by the Registrar's office and Open Learning, requested four commercial scanners for \$30,000. The scanners will be used – with a TRU student directly involved in the whole process – to scan historical records (thus doing away with the need of storing a large volume of hard-copies) and current and on-going ones. The other two proposals, put forward by students, lacked convincing cases. In light of the weakness in these two submissions, the SGF Review Committee (made of students, staff and faculty; 9 in total) decided to put together a grant-writing workshop which will be available to future applicants in the hopes of helping to create stronger submissions. J. Gordon will contact the TRU Research office to seek direction about creating the workshop</p> <p>Composting Pilot Project - The pilot using the Jora 5100 in-vessel composter is going well. The TRU Coop research student, Allysha Sorba, is conducting the day-to-day running of the project and is also conducting on-going research both regarding the compost material and perceptions of composting. Upon hearing about the pilot, one idea that was put forth was for TRUOES to consider having the student enter her research into the Undergrad Research Conference at the end of March. Elizabeth Rene is the contact for this. Who would like to head up this initiative?</p> <p>Electric Vehicle Suitability Assessment Program – The results of the three weeks of driving-pattern data logged from the 14 TRU work vehicles was revealed to Jim. He believes there is a strong long-term business case to convert most of these vehicles to electric or hightbred when the time comes at the end of their lifecycle to replace them. The trick, as agreed on by Les, is to be able to come up with the higher up front payment for each vehicle than is usually paid. There are government incentives right now that would help with this issue.</p>	<p>J. Gordon</p> <p>Which EAC member?</p>

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Solar Photovoltaic Electric Panels Installed on Roof of

Independent Centre – This joint project between TRUOES and TRUSU will proceed in the Spring once a decision is made as to how big a system to install. If a \$30,000 system were to be installed, the pay-back period would be 15 to 18 years. There was a question as to whether the Trades and Technology Dept might be able to help with the maintenance of the system. Once enough data is gathered from this project, a decision will be made whether to install systems on other TRU buildings.

J. Gudjonson

NEW BUSINESS

Annoyance with Temperature Differences Between Buildings

- J. Lamb mentioned that at the last Student Caucus meeting there was a discussion about the annoyance with the gradient of temperature differences between buildings. Are there ways to remedy this in order to have more consistent temperatures? The issue is being looked into in HOL and OM.

Progress of Leadership in Environmental Sustainability

Certificate - S. Purdy reported that five students have completed it and eight are currently enrolled in it.

CORRESPONDENCE None

NEXT MEETING Next meeting: February 5, 2014 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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