

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2015

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

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE		
Present:	Scott Blackford (designate from TRU office of Legal Counsel); Jim Gudjonson; Hoberly Hove; Crystal Huscroft; Stacey Jyrkkanen; Sofia Perkins-Taal; Susan Purdy (Chair); Wayne Singular; Les Tabata; Robert Wisla	
Participating by Teleconference:	None	
Regrets:	Emma Bourassa; Michele Harrison; Linda Komori; Sharman Learie; Dale Parkes; Glenn Read; John Sparks; Peter Tsigaris	
Guests:	none.	
Others:	James Gordon (note-taker, TRUOES); Natalie Yao (TRUOES)	
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES	<i>The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 4:10 pm by the Chair.</i>	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<i>On motion duly made by S. Jyrkkanen and seconded by R. Wisla, it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed.</i>	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<u>Minutes of January 7, 2015</u> <i>On motion duly made by R. Wisla and seconded by S. Blackford, it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes as distributed.</i>	
PRESENTATIONS	None.	
BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	<u>On work of sub-committee looking at issues to do with entrenching and infusing sustainability into TRU curriculum</u>	
	S. Purdy reported that she will be meeting with some people at UBC on Feb 20 about the process they went through to develop the	S. Purdy

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	<p>sustainability course listing system they use. Others interested can join Susan.</p> <p><u>Possibility of changing scope and name of EAC to the TRU Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) (working title)</u></p> <p>S. Purdy reported that the revised draft Terms of Reference for the new SAC was sent to Gordon Tarzwell, Chair of Senate Steering Committee. The committee is looking at it now and, once discussed, could do three things: approve it, reject it, or send it back asking for revisions. S. Blackford strongly suggested having someone from the EAC to be the 'champion' at all such meetings in the future in order to be able to address questions right away.</p> <p><u>Grasslands Education Kiosk behind Warehouse</u></p> <p>J. Gudjonson reported that the construction of the kiosk will happen. All that needs to happen now is for S. Purdy to contact Interim Trades Chair, Tom Haag, about details.</p> <p><u>Initiative to phase out desk-top printers</u></p> <p>J. Gudjonson reported that he and Liam Regan (Manager of the TRU Printshop) will fine-tune details of the phase-out plan. Once the plan is finalized, the first phase of it will be for users of desk-top printers to voluntarily relinquish them. There will also be a moratorium on buying new ones (except in certain circumstances). There are roughly 240 desk-top printers on campus now. The hope is to get around 70 voluntarily turned in this year. Details on the whole program will be posted on the TRU Office of Environment and Sustainability's website by the end of winter. Matt Milovick said he'd 'lead the charge' and give up his printers.</p> <p><u>Update on outcome of CommUnity Innovation Lab (CIL), sustainability conference and 'Village' (Feb 3-5, 2015 at the CAC).</u></p> <p>Several members of the EAC who attended aspects of the event reported that, in general, they thought the conference and Sustainability Village went very well. J. Gordon will</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>S. Purdy</p> <p></p> <p>J. Gordon</p> <p></p> <p>J. Gordon</p>

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follow-up with the event organizer (Joanne de Vries) regarding a plan that was put forth many months ago (during the event planning) to have someone, for instance, a grad student, take some of the key action items that arose out of the event and work with them over 12 months to 'bring them to life'. Also, for those who attended the event, they can still fill-in the post-event survey, which will help with future event planning: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJ72TRR>

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- J. Gudjonson reported on the following:
- a) There are currently five campus buildings that are part of the Continuous Optimization program.
 - b) In the name of reducing TRU's over-all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (from all sources on all campuses) a new waste-wood powered boiler is being considered to heat the entire William's Lake campus. If installed, it would reduce that campus' GHG emissions by approximately 90%.
 - c) In 4 or 5 months, all parking lights around the Kamloops campus will be replaced with high-efficiency 'smart lights'. These will cut down on energy use both when on, and, just as importantly, will, due to a 'smart technology' feature, notify maintenance staff when a specific maintenance issue needs addressing. Doing so will significantly reduce the guess-work--and hence number of hours spent--that currently takes place when lights malfunction. Long-term cost savings will be realized due to these features.
 - d) A solid waste audit of the Kamloops campus' waste will take place in March. This will provide base-line numbers that will assist with TRU's zero-waste initiative moving forward over the years.
 - e) In the Spring, a start-up company will look at installing occupancy sensors in the Independent Centre that uses people's smart-phones to let the HVAC system know how to perform based on the number of people in the building.
 - f) TRU's National Sweater Day event (Feb 5) was a success.

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The temperature in most buildings was turned down 2-3 degrees to 20 degrees for the day (resulting in a savings of 21.5 GJ and \$215), and the goal of having 120 people getting a sweater portrait taken was achieved. Whether some campus buildings could easily stay at 20 degrees will be investigated.

J. Gordon

NEW BUSINESS

LEED Gold for HOL - L. Tabata reported that after four years of work, the HOL is finally recognized as a LEED Gold certified building. It now joins four other similar buildings in Kamloops.

Issue of washroom paper towel dispensers and electric hand dryers - Regarding the issue of replacing paper towel dispensers in washrooms with electric hand dryers, J. Gordon and J. Gudjonson reported on the following. They will be working with the TRUSU Eco club—the group who received the funding from the Sustainability Grant Fund to purchase the 52 dryers and start the project—on the following initiatives to help address the two main concerns that have come forward from this project so far: hygiene and noise.

- Hygiene: installing posters in all campus washrooms on proper hand washing techniques (since a large portion of the whole issue of poor hygiene can be rectified with proper hand washing); installing door foot-pulls on all washroom doors (following a successful ten door pilot); installing hand sanitizer bottles on the outside of washroom doors; when paper towel dispensers are removed, making sure only new high-powered 'jet' hand dryers are installed.
- Noise: determining which campus washrooms are better off without a jet hand dryer (for instance, when too close to an office or classroom, or in a library). Where this is the case, a quieter hand dryer may be installed or a paper towel dispenser may remain.

Another poster—mentioning the overwhelming environmental and financial savings realized from switching from paper towel dispensers to jet hand dryers—will also be installed in all washrooms.

J. Gudjonson reported that he personally contacted all parties

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who emailed his office with concerns on this issue in order to discuss with them how this issue will be dealt with moving forward.

Finally, in retrospect, staff from TRUOES recognize that they could have done a better job working with the students from TRU Eco to roll-out this whole project, in particular around communicating with TRU staff about the plan for the switch-over.

Anti-Idling Initiative – In order to help with the fight to get people to stop unnecessarily producing more CO₂ than is needed (the planet’s atmosphere is past 400 parts per million of CO₂— and climbing--where 350 is ‘normal’), 20 mid-size ‘anti-idling’ signs will be posted at key campus locations, and 3 large signs will be posted near campus entrances. These signs will inform motorists they are on a no-idling campus and should refrain from running their engines when stopped. More signs can be ordered and installed if more are needed at a later date.

None

March 4, 2015 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the TRUSU Boardroom.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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