



**Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

October 7, 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:** Warren Asuchak, Scott Blackford, Christin Chen, Karl Fultz (Vice Chair), Robyn Hollas, Pete Hrkac, Tina Matthew, Michael Mehta, Christine Miller (Chair), Jana Noskova, Nicole Schabus, Meng Sun, Peter Tsigaris,

**Participating by Teleconference:**

**Absent:**

**Regrets:** Carolyn Ives, Bala Nikku, Dipesh Prema, Thamindu Widyaratne

**Admin Support:** James Gordon

**Guests:**

**Others:** Alana Hoare (Office of Quality Assurance)

**Vacancies:** Dean's Council representative

**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 round of introductions by everyone on the call then took place.

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Christine Miller gave the territorial acknowledgement.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** On **MOTION** duly made it was **RESOLVED** to approve the agenda as distributed.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** Minutes of Sept 9 were accepted.

**PRESENTATIONS** None

**BUSINESS  
ARISING FROM  
MINUTES**

5a. Regarding the matter of the Board of Governors agreeing that TRU should sign the climate emergency letter (<https://www.sdgaccord.org/climateletter>), Karl reported that before Covid in March plans were moving ahead in a positive way on this subject. The TRU student union was supportive of TRU signing the letter but they didn't sign it themselves. The new plan is to get this issue on the agenda for both the Senate meeting October 26 and the Board of Governors meeting December 4. Also, the two new ESAC students representatives, Thamindu and Christin, will ask TRUSU to sign on.

Karl,  
Christine,  
Thamindu,  
Christin

5b. Regarding the matter of discussions with TRUSU about setting waste parameters so that vendors at the Back-To-School BBQ (TRU's largest event) and other similar events won't bring so many single-use items that need disposing of, James reported that he sent a second email to Nathan Lane but has had no response. He will follow up once it's likely that there will be such an event post-Covid. This item is tabled until that time.

5c. James reported that the registration site is open so that all current TRU students, staff and faculty members can attend--for free--the October 20-22 virtual Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education, put on annually by AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education). All you need to register is a TRU email and the Discount Code found here: <https://inside.tru.ca/events/event/virtual-global-conference-sustainability-in-higher-ed/>. The conference theme is "**Mobilizing for a Just Transition**".

- Karl and Michael have expressed interest in helping with the TRU virtual booth. James will connect with them and all ESAC members.

**James**

**REPORT OF  
COMMITTEES**

6a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee. Committee report by Christine, Co-Chair (Carolyn has stepped back and Christine and Crystal

Huscroft are co-chairing the sub-committee). Once the terms of reference for the sub-committee were amended, a motion passed to adopt them.

7b). Awards Sub-committee. Michael Mehta, the Chair, reported that he learned from the Awards Office that the Tom Owen Award does not need to be awarded this month but instead can be given out in March, as has happened in year's past. The following agreed to help with the sub-committee: Warren, Karl, Jana, Christine, and Christin.

7C. ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee. Committee report by James, Chair. He reported that the committee will meet next week for the first time since Feb, due to Covid. Of particular importance on the agenda will be discussions on confirming the terms of reference, creating a 5-year zero waste plan (to get to 95% diversion from landfill), and moving forward with the plan for the Single-Use Item Elimination Task Force.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Warren reported on the following:

- The campus electrification project is moving ahead with Phase 1, which includes Clock Tower, Old Main, Library and Culinary Arts. The City is interested in coming on board and discussions are on-going. Once complete, there should be a reduction of CO2 from these sites of 90%. Creative Energy is the lead company working on this project. Construction should start January 2022.
- Construction will begin in Spring of 2021 for the low-carbon electrification project at the East Village.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

9a. Regarding her report to the TRU Senate from the Sustainability Core Theme Working Group for the North West Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) accreditation, Alana stated when she presented the findings recently one Senator thought that it's worth mentioning the counter-points to various environmental initiatives. For example, that although applying plastic bird-protection window film to campus buildings will help prevent as many bird strikes against windows, the down side is that we are

buying more plastic products, which is not great for the environment.  
Also, a motion passed approving the Terms of Reference for the working group.

**CORRESPONDENCE** None.

**NEXT MEETING** November 4, 2020 - 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)*