



## Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 4, 2020

Committee meeting held in HOL 402,

Thompson Rivers University

Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 12:00 PM. Lunch provided.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>Present:</b>	Tom Dickinson (Vice Chair), Karl Fultz (Chair), Jim Gudjonson, Robyn Hollas (replacing Jessica Papineau), Carolyn Ives, Tina Matthew, Jana Noskova, Nicole Schabus, Dev Shah, Peter Tsigaris	
<b>Participating by Teleconference:</b>	none	
<b>Absent:</b>	Warren Asuchak	
<b>Regrets:</b>	Raikhan Amanzholova, Scott Blackford, Pete Hrkac, Christine Miller, Bala Nikku, Dipesh Prema,	
<b>Admin Support:</b>	James Gordon	
<b>Guests:</b>	Aaron Wiebe	
<b>Others:</b>	none	
<b>Vacancies:</b>	1 faculty member	
<b>CALL TO ORDER &amp; WELCOMES</b>	The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:15 pm by the Chair, Karl Fultz, who welcomed everyone.	
<b>TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	Tina Mathew gave the territorial acknowledgement.	
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	On <b>MOTION</b> duly made it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the agenda as distributed.	
<b>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</b>	Minutes of February 5 were accepted.	

**PRESENTATIONS** Karl presented the 2019 *TRU Staff /Faculty Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award* to Haley Feller, staff member in Open Learning.

**BUSINESS  
ARISING FROM  
MINUTES**

6 a & b) 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 after a group discussion on this the matter with Jim, Scott and Peter (as well as hearing receptive opinions to this idea from many within the TRU governance body) they decided that Karl and Peter will put together a science-based document this week outlining the reasons for the TRU Board of Governors to sign the letter. The plan is that this document will be submitted asap and asked to be put on the Agenda for the B of G meeting on March 27 for discussion and, hopefully, approval. Karl, Jim, Scott, Peter and Dev will attend this meeting.

**Karl, Peter**

**Karl, Dev,  
Jim, Peter,  
Scott**

6 c). Tom reported that the Dean’s Council voted to add to the March 18 meeting Agenda a discussion of the ESAC motion to create a team-taught interdisciplinary sustainability course that would help students meet the new and upcoming General Education requirements.

**REPORT OF  
COMMITTEES**

7a)TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee. Committee report by Carolyn: A teaching faculty member is really needed to join the sub-committee in order to move the agenda forward to create a sustainable interdisciplinary course, the working title of which is ‘Indigenous Interdisciplinary Sustainability’. Most eligible candidates for the sub-committee are very busy with end-of-semester activities, but Carolyn is confident that come Spring and Summer, a more receptive response from eligible faculty will happen.

7b). Awards Sub-committee. Due to Scott, the Chair, being absent, Karl reported. The winners of the 2020 awards have been notified that they won, and the presentations will take place either during IDays or at the next ESAC meeting April 1. The latter was looked favorably upon since maybe the

TRU President (who will attend an ESAC meeting for the first time) could hand out the awards. Karl will enquire if this is possible with all parties. Nicole also suggested asking the President again if he would be willing to make the *Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards* ones that he would give out as 'Presidential awards'. Winners of this year's awards are:

- Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards
  - Staff/Faculty: Dr. Michael Mehta
  - Students: Dev Shah & Anna Bashkatova
- Tom Owen Environmental Sustainability Award
  - Yangchao Hu

7c). ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee. Committee report by James, Chair. The committee met Feb 27 and discussed the following:

- Finalizing a sub-committee Terms of Reference
- Moving forward on modifications to the Ballot Boxes for cig butts.
- There is a student led cig butt pickup event March 17<sup>th</sup>, 11am to 1pm
- Updates on getting a handheld vacuum for sucking cigarette butts and/or getting a broom and dust pan.
- Working on getting better signage for 9 smoking areas to encourage people to use ashtrays.
- Dipesh and James are working on creating short zero-waste videos that faculty could show students at the beginning of semesters.
- The Eco-Container program has seen a dramatic reduction in numbers of returned containers, and so TRU Food Services, with help from the Sustainability Office, will seek ways to rectify this situation.
- The Single-Use Item Elimination Task Force (a sub-committee of this sub-committee) is working on creating a list of all TRU single-use items, then deciding what items should be eliminated in what order, and then

drawing up a plan to do so. Exeter University in the UK has gone through a similar process.

Tom reported that TRU volunteers, as well as members of the Sustainability Office, are working on ways to make Ribfest more zero-waste. The City is keen to partner on this initiative since they can use this large festival as pilot on how to improve waste practices at other City events. This is a Kamloops Rotary event.

Jim said that TRUSU was interested in having a discussion about setting waste parameters so that vendors at the Back-To-School BBQ (TRU's largest event; which will be even bigger this Sept due the TRU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations) won't bring so many single-use items that need disposing of. James will contact TRUSU about having a discussion about this.

**James**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Standing report on note-worthy energy projects and plans.

Jim reported on the following:

- The 3-phase energy districts project on the campus with Creative Energy is moving ahead. With a new energy grid design, state-of-the-art heat pumps and other equipment, energy will be more easily moved around the campus and TCC to where it is needed and during the most appropriate times of the day and night.
  - Within the next 2 to 5 years, almost every campus rooftop will have solar PV panels. Parking lot N will have a new solar-roof structure over it.
- The President has given each TRU office/dept funds to use towards the TRU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Amongst other things, the Sustainability Office is organizing a June 12-14 Jasper, Alta trip for any student or staff member with a glacier walk, rafting trip, hike, accommodation and meals. Details will be released soon and the price should be very reasonable.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE** None.

**NEXT MEETING** April 1 (no fooling!), 2020 - TRUSU Boardroom, 12:00 – 1:30pm. Reminder that TRU President, Brett Fiarbairn will attend.

**ADJOURNMENT** Adjourned at 1:30pm

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*Signature of Chairperson, Chair*

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

