



Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 6, 2019

Committee meeting held in the TRU Student Union Boardroom, Thompson Rivers University Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 12:15 PM. Lunch was provided.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE	Present: Wilson Bell; Scott Blackford (Vice Chair); Tom Dickenson; Haley Feller; Jim Gudjonson; Courtney Mason; Tina Matthew; Bala Nikku; Jessica Papineau; Bryce Parks, Dipesh Prima; Caitlin Quist; Nicole Schabus; Peter Tsigaris	
	Participating by Teleconference: none	
	Absent:	
	Regrets: Warren Asuchak (sent Bryce Parks as designate); Karl Fultz (Chair); Paul Michel (sent Tina Matthew as designate); Meherul Mizu; Glenn Read (sent Jessica Papineau as designate)	
	Admin Support: James Gordon, Melina Smith	
	Guests: none	
	Others: Natalie Yao and Aaron Wiebe from Sustainability Office	
	Vacancies: 2x faculty members	
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES	<i>The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:10 pm by the Vice Chair, Scott Blackford.</i>	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<i>On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed with the addition of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Due to Karl not being at the meeting, Bryce Parks from Facilities will address the item of 'Greenspace to enhance positivity'.</i> 	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	Minutes of February 6, 2019 were accepted.	
PRESENTATIONS	None.	
BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	5.a. Regarding the presentation at the December 2018 meeting by Meherul, 'Greenspace to enhance positivity', Bryce reported that plants can be brought into buildings. James will introduce Bryce to Meherul so that Bryce can find out first-hand what ideas Meherul has on this front. Other salient points brought up in the discussion include: (Bryce)	James

maintenance of the plants is an important consideration; (Tom) plants that give off allergens can be an issue, so finding plants, like the rubber plant, that does not flower is a something to consider; he thinks that basic maintenance would not be a huge concern since he knows of several faculty members who would be willing to water and pick off dead leaves, etc; and that outdoor landscaping is also very important for the campus; (Peter) to avoid putting plants near windows since doing so can increase bird strike chances against the glass; and finally (Tina) that she has information on traditional indigenous plants from this area that might be appropriate to plant.

5.b. Jim reported that there is no date yet to invite TRU President, Brett Fairbairn to an ESAC meeting so that he can learn first-hand about how the committee works. Jim reported that the Sustainability Office's 5 year Strategic Sustainability Plan expires this coming October, and this presents a great opportunity to get input from the President into the process and to get his buy-in. Plans are underway to work with the consultant who helped on the last plan, Stantec, to help with this one too, which will likely follow the same framework as the last one—the AASHE STARS framework—but to also incorporate the UN SDGs. Jim thought inviting the President to a full 1.5 hr meeting would be great. Nicole thought it might be better to first have the ESAC committee offer their input into the plan—to come up with the basic direction of the plan and then to invite the President; maybe to May or June's meeting. Jim also mentioned that he wants to get feedback from ESAC members at April and May meetings, and that there will also be 'town-hall' and community input meetings for the TRU community to offer their input from mid-April to May.

Jim

5.c. Jim reported that the issue of discussing any sort of biomass project on campus may be a moot point if recent developments on the front of electrifying the entire campus come to pass, which would include not even using natural gas. He reported that Hydro is interested in this study. He is undertaking a \$75,000 study right now to investigate this

issue. He would like to wait to see the results of this study before deciding on the need for an in-depth discussion on the biomass issue due the fact that if the results are favourable and TRU decides to pursue greater electrification, then using biomass for energy may not be needed at all. In general, Nicole would like to see more substantive discussions at the ESAC on these sorts of big campus issues.

On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to remove the motion from the last meeting for having a special meeting of the ESAC to discuss the biomass issue.

Jim will share the electrification study with the ESAC once it's done. Peter requested that Jim report to the ESAC at the next meeting what specifically it means to electrify the whole campus. Having Jim present to the ESAC at every meeting specifically about note-worthy energy projects and plans will now be a standing item on the ESAC Agenda under Director's Report.

Jim
Jim

Jim/James

5. d. Single-use plastic items and other items associated with the ESAC meeting lunches. Haley reported that she discussed these issues with Jessica and that Jessica is looking into solutions to avoid use or decrease the use of cling wrap where possible. Jessica mentioned the need to use bright coloured 'frill-picks' (tooth picks with little plastic coloured frills on the ends), due to issues in other locations around the world that have experienced the fall-out of some people swallowing toothpicks since they didn't see them.

Jessica

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEES**

6.a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee. James reported that Susan told him the sub-committee is have a 'green lunch' once a month, where faculty can come for informal discussions around this topic.

6.b. Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award sub-committee. Caitlin reported that the sub-committee approved giving out the two student awards for the Student Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award to the only two applicants who were both deserving. On motion

duly made it was RESOLVED to give students the award at the David Suzuki event on Friday if they are able to attend. Jim will check if they. James will approach Marcom about profiling the two students to help raise the profile of the award within the whole student body. She also mentioned that more is needed to promote the faculty/staff Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award since no applications were received. The ESAC thought that the award was not well promoted (not using the faculty L drive of ECon list for instance) and so decided to push the deadline for this award to April 30. The award will be given out at the June 5 ESAC meeting, and hopefully can be given out by the TRU President. James will better promote the faculty/staff award, and compile the list of all past award winners and post their names on the ESAC site.

**Jim
James**

James

6.c. Zero Waste sub-committee (ZWSC) . James (Chair), Karl, Jessica and Haley met last week and decided on the following: to research the best program for a reusable food containers system on campus (similar to GreenOzzi). Jim mentioned that Green Ozzi lids leaked and so to find a better system, and also that the system needs ‘teeth’ regarding the fact that if students are given a free container when they first come to TRU, then they don’t get any other free ones. The ZWSC will report back on this at the next meeting. Haley mentioned her proposal for a week-long program around the theme of waste-reduction; possibly in September or October. She also mentioned that student orientation sessions should include greater detail on recycling protocols in order to better understand zero-waste initiatives, and that the Kamloops waste-wise app should be better promoted.

James

ZWSC

6.d. Sustainable Procurement Framework Sub-Committee. Jim reported that there will be a presentation at the next April 5 ESAC meeting.

Jim

**DIRECTOR’S
REPORT**

7. Due to time constraints, Jim only mentioned the following: in keeping with 5.c., the plan is to have solar PV panels on every campus rooftop within 3-5 years; David Suzuki event (*Beyond Climate* film) on Friday is sold out, and money raised

from all ticket sales will be donated to 12 community groups (raised \$12,000!).

NEW BUSINESS

Tom, as ESAC JOHS Committee Representative, raised the issue brought by the JOHS Committee of increasing numbers of rats on campus. He and Jim will discuss this issue and will talk soon with the JOHS Committee

Tom & Jim

CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEXT MEETING

April 3, 2019. 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm. TRUSU Boardroom.
Lunch will be served (please inform James of dietary needs).

ADJOURNMENT

1:30 PM.

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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