



## Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 9, 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
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>Present:</b>	Warren Asuchak, Scott Blackford, Karl Fultz (Chair), Robyn Hollas, Pete Hrkac, Carolyn Ives, Tina Matthew, Christine Miller, Dipesh Prema, Nicole Schabus, Meng Sun, Peter Tsigaris	
<b>Participating by Teleconference:</b>	none	
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Regrets:</b>	Raikhan Amanzholova, Tom Dickinson (Vice Chair), Bala Nikku, Jana Noskova, Dev Shah,	
<b>Admin Support:</b>	James Gordon	
<b>Guests:</b>	Matt Milovick	
<b>Others:</b>	Alana Hoare (Office of Quality Assurance), Natalie Yao (Sustainability)	
<b>Vacancies:</b>	Deans Council representative	
<b>CALL TO ORDER &amp; WELCOMES</b>	The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:10 pm by the Chair, Karl Fultz, who welcomed everyone. A round of introductions by everyone on the call then took place.	
<b>TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	Karl Fultz 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 June 3 were accepted.	

**PRESENTATIONS** Matt Milovick, TRU VP of Administration and Finance, spoke on the following:

- Sustainability is embedded in the ethos of TRU.
- Emphasized that he wants to retain the STARS Platinum rating.
- TRU is moving ahead with the campus electrification project, with mini-district energy systems.
- The new campus 5-year sustainability plan is still in effect. It's more sophisticated than the last one, and it will be followed.
- Warren is now taking the lead with the Sustainability Office.
- The TRU Revolving Fund is still an important tool to help with infrastructure projects related to energy use.
- The fact that this committee reports to both the Board and Senate is very helpful and important.
- A new Manager of Sustainability Programs will likely be hired before Christmas.
- Warren mentioned that the Facilities Department has always been involved with sustainability infrastructure projects on campus and, obviously, will continue to do so.
- TRU just signed an agreement with BC Hydro for the next two years to reduce 400,000 kWh of energy each year.
- TRU has great partnerships with the City, BC Hydro, and Fortis. The City is keen to partner with TRU with such things as our ebike program, and learn from it.

Matt concluded by saying he's happy to come back to follow-up on what he's mentioned today and to continue to champion sustainability at TRU.

**ELECTIONS**

**BUSINESS  
ARISING FROM  
MINUTES**

5b. Christine was nominated as the Chair and she accepted. Congratulations Christine, and thanks for taking the reigns! Karl accepted the nomination as Vice Chair. Thank you Karl! He mentioned that he may be retiring at some point this year but he'll be with TRU at least until March. Everyone was

very grateful for Karl's work and leadership as the Chair over the last several years.

6a. 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 on board. The new plan is to get this issue on the agenda for the Board of Governors for either the October or November meeting. Peter Tsigaris will help to facilitate this plan, and Nicole mentioned she is happy to help where needed.

**Karl, Peter,  
Nicole**

6b. Due you to Tom's absence Carolyn said she will report on this issue when she reports on her subcommittee report.

6c. In regards to 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, 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 due to Covid-19. Events on campus may resume in December.

**James**

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

7a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum subcommittee. Committee report by Carolyn.

Re the ESAC motion to create a team-taught interdisciplinary sustainability course that would help students meet the new and upcoming General Education requirements.

Carolyn mentioned that things are moving in a positive direction. Crystal Huscroft will co-chair the subcommittee to help create this course, and the group is working on attracting other faculty members, students, Elders, and community members to sit on subcommittee, which is meeting on September 17: the Terms of Reference will be

revisited, and a draft of the plan for developing the course's learning outcomes will be presented then.

7b). Awards Sub-committee. Michael Mehta, the Chair, was not present (Karl wrote apologized for not informing him) so Scott reported that, similar to previous years, if the ESAC hopes to get it's sustainability awards to become part of the President's awards then things have to move along since time will fly by.

7C. ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee. Committee report by James, Chair. He reported that he will reach out to people from this committee and others about getting help to put together a five-year zero waste plan. The Zero Waste Subcommittee and Single-Use Item Elimination Task Force will get up and running soon.

**James**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Warren reported on the following:

- Two former employees from the Sustainability Office, Aaron Wiebe and Canyon Sinclair, have been rehired to work solely to complete the STARS report.
- Regarding the campus electrification project, Creative Energy is working with TRU on this project. The first part will begin in 2022 with Phase 1. Creative Energy will pay for the infrastructure costs and then recoup those costs by becoming the energy provider once the system is built. Warren recently met with representatives from the City who are keen to get involved and loop in the Tournament Capital Center into the Phase 1 project in order to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Natalie continues to work on an energy study for the East Village with Stantec. It is a low-carbon and electrification study and construction should start in summer 2021.
- He also mentioned meeting with the City about its 'low carbon community plan' with a goal of being net zero by 2050. There is interest by the City in low carbon transportation options, with electric bikes and charging stations as important considerations.

- The new Nursing building has no carbon burning systems. It is all electric and also has solar photovoltaic panels to produce electricity.

**NEW BUSINESS**

9a. Karl reported that there was a positive outcome working this summer with Alana, Carolyn, Warren and James on the Sustainability Core Theme Workbook for the North West Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) accreditation. New sustainability indicators have been established. Alana put forward a motion to strike a working group in order to have a core theme planning group in order to facilitate this whole process much easier than happened this year. The motion passed. The following people agreed to sit on the ESAC Core Theme Planning Working Group:

**Alana**

- Alana Hoare
- Christine Miller
- James Gordon
- Pete Hrkac
- Carolyn Ives
- Peter Tsigaris
- Meng Sung

9b. James reported that TRU just committed to being a host institution for the upcoming virtual Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference October 20-22. All current TRU students, faculty and staff members will be able to attend any of the virtual sessions and the virtual exhibition hall free of charge. James thinks this is a great opportunity for the university to show leadership and re-commit to sustainability. He will send out details once he has them.

**James**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**NEXT MEETING**

October 7, 2020 - 12:00 to 1:30 pm— Virtual via MS Teams

**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)*