

President's Sustainability Council Meeting
April 24th, 9:30am – 11:00am
956 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In Attendance: Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Noël Badiou, Mikhaela Gray, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Ross McMillan, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Chris Wong

Regrets: Anthony Barbisan, Christopher Bentley, Idil Boran, Sheila Forshaw for Janet Morrison, Richard Francki, Bob Gagne, Ian Garrett, Michaela Hynie, Lucas McCann, Gayle McFadden, Yvette Munro for Alice Pitt, Adam Patrick, Helen Psathas, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Noel Sturgeon, Laura Taylor, Michelle Uy, Carol Yorkden-Chamberlain

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Martin Bunch welcomed those in attendance to the third meeting of the President's Sustainability Council for the 2014-2015 academic year. The March Council meeting was postponed due to the labour disruption. At the March meeting, Dr. Robinson from UBC was scheduled to present to the Council. The Chair will invite Dr. Robinson to a future meeting in the 2015-2016 academic year. Martin has attended the working group meetings and looks forward to seeing the final recommendations.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Martin Bunch motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 8th, 2015. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUP CHAIRS/ CO-CHAIRS

Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group:

The working group has met once since the last Council meeting. The working group chair provided an update on the initiatives that they are pursuing.

- President's awards committee: 5 award recipients were selected in March and the awards will be handed out at the Earth Day Event on April 24th.
- STARS recommendations (2013): The working group would like to complete a STARS application by the end of Summer 2015.
- Signage: Group members are discussing improving signs on campus for green buildings and historical sites.

- Sustainability Strategic Plan: Members are discussing the value of creating a strategic plan for sustainability at York.
- K-Cups: Many departments use k-cups which are not recyclable. Group members would like to work with the University's coffee providers to encourage fair trade and recyclable k-cups on campus.
- Sustainability Report Recommendation: The group is looking at creating a shorter version of the annual report. The group has created a draft outline and they are working with stakeholders on campus to feature sustainability champions within the report.

Discussion followed the introduction of the report outline. It was suggested that infographics be included throughout the report. It was also suggested that a student outreach/ events section be added to the outline or alternatively, sustainability champions could be dispersed throughout the report to highlight student, staff and faculty achievements. CSBO facts could be included in the report to reduce duplicate information. It was recommended that waste and water be merged into one page. It was also suggested that the energy section should be separate from building and land usage. Social Justice could be incorporated throughout the report rather than having a distinct section.

There was also discussion regarding signage on campus. The group would like to increase signage on campus to inform community members of the green initiatives on-campus as well as to highlight historical buildings. The Council could consider recommending that the University strike a committee to focus on this initiative. It was suggested that a representative from Communication and Public Affairs attend a Council meeting in the next academic year to engage in a conversation on this topic.

Campus Operations and Development Working Group:

The working group is discussing the following initiatives:

- Signage on campus
- Graffiti and postering

Claudio Colaguori, a York University professor, has a research project focused on sustainability issues and would like to engage with the President's Sustainability Council. The working group is looking at ways they can collaborate and support the project.

This working group will provide a presentation on tree management to the Council at the next President's Sustainability Council meeting.

Curriculum Working Group:

The working group has met several times this academic term. The group is focusing on the following initiatives:

- Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS): Group members are collecting data on STARS for AASHE.
- Creating inventory of existing courses that include classroom activities that involve using the campus as a living lab
- Discussing the possibility of creating a program or certificate program using an interdisciplinary project model to promote sustainability

Currently, the working group does not have any recommendations for the final report. This group is newly active and members are focusing on advancing recommendations from previous years.

Social Justice & Human Rights Working Group:

The working group has held two meetings since the January 8th Council meeting. One of the meetings included a presentation from MetroLinx regarding Community Benefits Agreements. A Community Benefit Agreement is a contract signed by community groups and a project developer, which requires that the project enhances the community by providing amenities such as training and employment opportunities. The group is discussing drafting a recommendation on community benefit agreements.

The working group is focusing on the following issues:

- Hiring and purchasing from local suppliers
- The use of space by neighbouring communities: The working group is developing a recommendation to create a committee through Community Relations to assist in processing use of space requests.
- Fair Trade Certification: Progress on this initiative is slow moving and a recommendation will not be made for the 2014-2015 annual report.

There was discussion about the water ban and the need to onboard all University vendors in order to make this initiative a success.

NEXT STEPS

The Council will meet in early June to finalize recommendations for the annual report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.