

President's Sustainability Council Meeting  
January 8th, 2:00pm – 3:30pm  
626 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

**In Attendance:** Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Noël Badiou, Christopher Bentley, Sheila Forshaw for Janet Morrison, Mikhaela Gray, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Ross McMillan, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Chris Wong

**Regrets:** Anthony Barbisan, Idil Boran, 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 second meeting of the President's Sustainability council for 2014-2015.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Martin Bunch motioned to approve the meeting minutes of October 7th, 2014. The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected. Correction to the minutes: Further, the President looks forward to the phase out of the sale of bottled water at the University as of September 2015.

## **REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUP CHAIRS/ CO-CHAIRS**

### Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group:

The group met in early December and discussed the following:

- President's Sustainability Leadership awards: The group discussed potential award formats, such as creating special categories, but agreed the format would remain unchanged. The group has asked that leadership is identified in the award descriptions as it is not currently emphasized in the criteria of the award.
- Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS): Group members are collecting data on STARS for AASHE. The group would like to complete a STARS submission by spring or summer of 2015.

- Waste pilot: The group has been working with CSBO to target classes with messaging to encourage students to be more responsible with waste. Some screen posters have been created and the pilot will be conducted in February.
- The Annual Report: Members are looking at creating a shorter version of the report. Andrew Plunkett has looked at examples from other institutions. The working group will bring back a recommendation for changes to the President's Sustainability Council for their review.
- Sustainability plans: Working group members are conducting research on what other units at the University are doing regarding their strategic plans on sustainability.

#### Campus Operations and Development Working Group:

The working group met at the end of November and their meeting focused on the following recommendations from last year's report:

- Energy
- Tobacco waste control and the new by-law in effect Jan 1<sup>st</sup>
- Postering
- Farmer's Market
- Transportation improvements
- Green Houses
- Tree management program plan for the campus

The working group would like to formulate a recommendation and identify a plan on postering. Nicole Arseunalt suggested that another working group or sub-committee be created to focus on this issue. Committee members supported this suggestion and encouraged the participation of student representatives from clubs and organizations to be a part of the sub-group.

The working group will host another meeting at the end of January to finalize recommendations for the upcoming year. A presentation on tree management will be included in the next President's Sustainability Council meeting.

#### Curriculum Working Group:

The group has been focusing on the York campus as a living lab. Members would like to work with students to come up with a list of current courses that include experiential education and they would like to work together to outline details on how to get involved with these opportunities. The working group is looking at best practices at other universities on experiential education and sustainability.

Chair Martin Bunch encourages the Curriculum Working Group to submit an application for AIF funding, due February 6<sup>th</sup> 2015. Council members interested in working on this initiative are asked to contact Martin.

#### Social Justice & Human Rights Working Group:

Noël Badiou informed the Council that Lorna Schwartzentruber will be the co-chair of the Social Justice and Human Rights Working Group.

The group met twice in the fall and their meetings focused on the following recommendations:

- Fair Trade opportunities
- Water bottle sale phase-out timelines and human rights campaign
- The use of University space by neighbouring communities such as Jane and Finch
- Community engagement and employment: The group is focusing on the recommendation to improve access to jobs on campus. Members are also inviting a speaker to campus to talk about community benefit agreements with Metrolinx.

The group is looking at past recommendations and getting concrete updates rather than creating new recommendations.

### **PSC STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

The student Sub-Committee is working on an initiative that involves a discussion forum within the college communities with the purpose of sharing and gathering information related to sustainability. The Sub-Committee has contacted the College Masters to schedule a meeting with them. The forums will take place mid to late February.

It was suggested by Council members that the Sub-Committee request to be a part of the College of Master's meeting agenda. The Committee was also encouraged to reach out to College Councils, RezLife and to look into incentives such as food to include at their event.

### **TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH**

Jennifer Foster delivered a presentation on the Task Force on Sustainability Research (see attached presentation).

The presentation was followed by discussion. Key discussion points included:

- Experiential Education and Sustainability Research
- Recommendations and their future implementation

- Sustainability Research: Funding and Tracking
- York's flagships in Sustainability Research

### **PRESIDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

Andrew Plunkett provided an update on the 2015 President's Leadership Awards. The nomination period for the awards opens on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The selection committee will review the nominations in late February. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of five, including two students, one faculty member and two staff members. The award winners will be announced on April 22nd.

Andrew Plunkett would like Council members who are interested in serving on the selection committee to contact him. President's Sustainability Council members are encouraged to nominate community members and to share information about the awards to colleagues.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:34pm.