

President's Sustainability Council Meeting
June 1, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
956 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In Attendance: Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Mikhaela Gray, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Chris Wong

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Martin Bunch welcomed those in attendance to the final meeting of the President's Sustainability Council for the 2014-2015 academic year. The chair provided an overview of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Martin Bunch motioned to approve the meeting minutes of April 24th, 2015. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

Jennifer Foster, Chair of the Task force on Sustainability Research, could not attend the Council meeting to provide a presentation on the Task Force's draft report. Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the report via email to Barbara Edwards at barbb@yorku.ca or to Jennifer Foster at jfoster@yorku.ca. Members can also provide feedback online at the following link: <http://taskforce.info.yorku.ca>. Mikhaela will circulate the draft report to the Council.

ANNUAL REPORT: REVIEW OF WORKING GROUP REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Martin Bunch and Andrew Plunkett will work together to ensure that the recommendation statuses are standardized for the final annual report.

Social Justice & Human Rights Working Group:

The working group has been focusing on the following items:

- Furthering discussion on mechanisms to expand community use of University space
- Fair Trade Certification
- Community Benefit Agreements

The working group will continue to discuss opportunities to share University space with community members. The Fair Trade Certification process is well underway and working group members will continue to pursue next steps. The working group has proposed a recommendation to create a sub-committee to review Community Benefits Agreements and to develop a proposal on behalf of the University. Other universities are discussing implementing these types of agreements and York University should pursue this initiative with a focus on York's Lands for Learning and the new Markham Campus.

The working group report also comments on recommendations that are complete or ongoing.

Campus Operations and Development Working Group:

The working group has developed two recommendations:

- The Campus as a Living Lab
- Creating a communication educational plan

It was suggested that the Campus as a Living Lab recommendation could reference the Curriculum Working Group recommendations from 3 years ago. The Curriculum Working Group needs the assistance of CSBO to help advance experiential education projects. Andrew Plunkett and Nicole Arsenault will connect to look at best practices and to determine how to utilize existing resources more effectively to create more opportunities for students. Andrew Plunkett and Martin Bunch will create a proposal to apply to for funding from outside organizations for sustainability projects. It was suggested that John Robinson, Associate Provost Sustainability at the University of British Columbia, could present to the Council on their experiential education program (SEEDS).

The second recommendation involves creating a communications plan to showcase the green building features of the University's buildings both physically and online. It was suggested that the working group could engage with Communications & Public Affairs department in the development of a plan. A policy should be developed to highlight the importance of including an educational component on green building in new

construction projects. It was suggested that advancement could contact a donor interested in green initiatives to help fund the implementation of sustainability signage on campus.

The working group report also comments on the status of previous recommendations.

Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group:

The Administrative and Organizational Structure Working group held three meetings in the 2014-2015 academic year. The working group has focused on four recommendations for the final report. The working group has focused on the following initiatives this year:

- Sustainability report: The working group has researched and developed the framework for a brief and visual report. The draft outline was presented to Council. The working group will present a draft report by the end of Summer 2015. It was suggested that the report include land use/land development as a category. It was recommended that energy, waste, grounds and water be showcased together in the report.
- Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS): The Sustainability Coordinator is working with a student to collect data on STARS for AASHE. The STARS submission will be completed by September 2015.
- Waste Pilot: The classroom waste project has been postponed from March 2015 to September 2015 due to the labour disruption.
- The President's Sustainability Leadership Awards: The 2nd annual Sustainability Awards and Earth Day event took place in April. There were 5 award winners this year. The working group would like the Council to provide feedback and comments on the leadership awards.
- Signage: The working group has discussed green building signage and is supportive of the Campus Operations and Development Working Group's recommendation on this initiative.
- Sustainability Strategic Plan: Members are investigating planning processes from other institutions to determine the feasibility and necessity of developing a strategic plan on sustainability for York University.
- K-Cups: The working group did not include a recommendation on sustainability concerns associated with K-Cups. Members would like to further discuss this

issue. It was suggested that members could meet with procurement to identify next steps.

Curriculum Working Group:

There was no representation from the Curriculum Working Group at the meeting. This year, the working group has focused on advancing previous recommendations.

PSC Student Sub-Committee:

There was no representation from the PSC Student Sub-Committee at the meeting. Council members are encouraged to send feedback on the Student Sub-Committee report through email.

OTHER BUSINESS

Members showed concern for the issue of domesticating wildlife on campus through community members feeding animals. It was suggested the signage could be created to reduce this issue.

The Council discussed the role of the President's Sustainability Council in the development of the new Markham campus. The Council would like to ensure that the recommendations in the President's Sustainability Council final annual report apply to all three of York University's campuses.

NEXT STEPS

Mikhaela will collect feedback from Council members on the report until June 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.