

President's Sustainability Council Meeting  
April 22, 2016 10:30am – 12:00pm  
Room 135, West Office Building

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Minutes

**In Attendance:** Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Sarah Barrett, Jennifer Chweiri, Zoi De La Peña Jenessa Doherty Sheila Forshaw for Janet Morrison, Richard Francki, Jason Gerrity, Mikhaela Gray, Nayel Halim, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Marion MacGregor, Lawrence Packer, Andrew Plunkett, Helen Psathas, Darryl Reed, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Craig Scott, Craig Stephens, Christine Till, Michelle Uy, Chris Wong

**Regrets:** Anthony Barbisan, Idil Boran, William Colgan, Jennifer Farmer, Richard Francki, Ian Garrett, Dirk Matten, Gayle McFadden, Ross McMillan, Yvette Munro for Alice Pitt, Adam Patrick, , Pamela Persaud, Noel Sturgeon, Laura Taylor, Carol Yorkden-Chamberlain

## **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Martin welcomed the Council to the final President's Sustainability Council meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved, seconded and *carried* that the meeting minutes of February 1, 2016 be approved as presented.

## **STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

The sub-committee tried to foster relationships with the colleges on campus but only New College was responsive. The students would like to work towards establishing partnerships with the colleges over the upcoming summer months.

The student sub-committee would like to expand on Aramark's lug-a-mug initiative to make it campus-wide. They would like to work with York Sustainable Enterprise Consultations (YSEC) at Schulich to create a marketing campaign. It was suggested that different campus partners group together to purchase a reusable cup to be handed out as a giveaway.

The students will see if there is an opportunity to connect with Regenesys on projects and initiatives and will connect with the campus operations and development working group.

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

### Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group:

Andrew provided an update on the administrative and organizational structure working group. Key updates included:

- The President's sustainability leadership awards recommendation is complete and ongoing. The awards have been distributed for the past three years.
- The waste initiative pilot in classrooms is complete. Messaging was posted on classroom screens to encourage students to pick up their garbage. Custodial services made an effort to analyze the impact that the campaign had on the cleanliness of the classrooms in Accolade West and in the Ross Building but data was difficult to determine. The initiative will run again in the next academic year.
- A new format of the sustainability report was launched in 2015 and it will be continued in future years.
- A STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) submission was completed recently. The University received a silver ranking. The working group will determine what is achievable within the next year and work towards a gold ranking from STARS.
- The working group will put forward a recommendation to establish an institutional sustainability strategic plan. The working group will circulate a draft recommendation to the Council for comment.
- The working group will put forward a recommendation regarding funding sustainability projects. Many Universities have sustainable funds which are established through fees, levies or donations.

The working group focused on completing previous recommendations and it is putting forward two new recommendations.

Discussion followed the Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group's update. Discussion points included:

- Restricting food and beverage within classrooms (to be discussed further at the next working group meeting)
- Lack of student space to eat
- Amount of funding that the University should aim for
- Parking fees and generating funding for sustainability projects (moved to the campus operations and development working group for discussion)
- Expanding on the waste project
- Regensis' levy

### Campus Operations and Development Working Group:

Nicole Arsenault provided an update on behalf of the campus operations and development working group.

- CSBO has prepared a report that outlines considerations, feasible actions, and the impact of the University signing the Paris Pledge for action. The report was sent to the Vice-President Finance and Administration for his review and comment. The working group would like to put forward a recommendation that the pledge be signed under a list of conditions.
- The working group is examining the use of energy on campus and the opportunities to use more renewable energy sources such as bio-gas.
- York University is officially a member of the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC). The University is working with CUTRIC to seek additional funding to do an electric bus demonstration and integration project which would replace conventional diesel shuttle buses with electric buses and to integrate the vehicles into an energy system that optimizes the use of micro-grid generated electricity on campus.
- York University submitted an application to the provincial government for the funding public electric vehicle charging stations on campus. The funding announcement is yet to be released.
- The working group will put forward a recommendation regarding information technology and standardizing printers to enhance sustainability at York.

### Social Justice and Human Rights Working Group:

The working group is in transition as one of the co-chairs, Noel Badiou, has recently left the University. Lorna Schwartzentruber is looking for a Council member to fill the vacant co-chair role. The working group has focused on two main areas:

1. Community Benefit Agreements: A sub-working group is creating a draft framework by June 2016.
2. Community Use of University Space: The working group has encountered several barriers and the work on this subject is currently on hold.

The working group has started to review recommendations from previous years but has not completed this process. Community members are encouraged to join the Social Justice and Human Rights working group as they are seeking to expand their membership.

### Curriculum Working Group:

The curriculum working group is putting forward a recommendation to encourage the development of sustainable principles within course content at York. The group has met once this academic year and will meet again in the near future.

It was suggested that the working group connect with the faculty member at Osgoode who is leading the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's mandate to include first nation education within course content. The working group could learn from their efforts and work together to achieve their respective goals. Craig Scott will provide the name of the faculty member to Andrew Plunkett.

## **2014-2015 ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

Andrew presented the 2014-2015 annual sustainability report to the Council. During the upcoming months, information will be collected for the 2015-2016 report. If Council members have feedback or suggestions for next year's report, they are encouraged to message Andrew Plunkett, Martin Bunch or Richard Francki.

## **PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

Martin Bunch announced the winners for the 2016 President's Sustainability Leadership Awards. The 2016 winners are:

- Nicole Arsenault, Manager, Transportation, Campus Services & Business Operations (CSBO)
- Jose Etcheverry, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES), and Co-Chair of the Sustainable Energy Initiative
- Finance Department
- Mark Terry, Documentary filmmaker and PhD student in the Department of Humanities, Faculty of Graduate Studies
- John Wilson, Manager, Mailing Services, CSBO (and York University's unofficial arborist)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The working group reports are due mid-May. The draft reports should be sent to the Council for comments. Afterwards, Martin will draft a report to be sent to the President for his approval.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.