

President's Sustainability Council Meeting
December 3, 2015 3:00pm – 4:30pm
956 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In Attendance: Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Noël Badiou, William Colgan, Jason Gerrity, Mikhaela Gray, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Gayle McFadden, Ross McMillan, Lawrence Packer, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Helen Psathas, Noel Sturgeon, Christine Till, Chris Wong

Guest presenter: John Robinson, Associate Provost Sustainability, University of British Columbia (UBC)

Regrets: Anthony Barbisan, Sarah Barrett, Idil Boran, Jennifer Chweiri, Jennifer Farmer, Sheila Forshaw for Janet Morrison, Richard Francki, Ian Garrett, Dirk Matten, Yvette Munro for Alice Pitt, Adam Patrick, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Craig Scott, Laura Taylor, Michelle Uy, Carol Yorkden-Chamberlain

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Martin welcomed John Robinson, Associate Provost Sustainability at the University of British Columbia. He also welcomed new members to the Council. The Chair noted that Faculties are appointing representatives to join the President's Sustainability Council. There are 3 Faculties whose representation is pending. Dean Sturgeon will participate on the committee moving forward. New representatives are encouraged to join one of the four working groups.

Martin received an email from York Region regarding a sustainability competition. The sender was looking for expressions of interest from our University for 4 students and 1 faculty member to compete as a team on a sustainability initiative. The information provided to Martin was vague and he has inquired for further details. If other members have received an email from York Region regarding this subject, Martin has requested that they let him know so that efforts and inquiries can be made in coordination.

Sustainable Energy Initiative Unveiling York's First Photovoltaic Charging Station will take place at 9:30am on Friday December, 11th in the Vanier Parking Lot. Council members are encouraged to attend. The President and the Minister of Transportation will be in attendance. It is the first solar product on campus.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and *carried* that the meeting minutes of October 2015 be approved as corrected.

STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The student sub-committee chair was unable to attend the Council meeting to provide an update.

STARS SUBMISSION

The STARS submission is a robust survey on sustainability which includes operations, curriculum, research and other sustainability areas on campus. There are 300 Universities in North America with STARS ratings. In the summer of 2014, Andrew worked with a work study student to collect data and information to complete the survey. They have worked with approximately 50 other colleagues to complete this process. York University is at the high-end of a silver rating according to the survey's rankings. The rating expires after 3 years. The STARS submission will be submitted in the near future.

Data on academic offerings was collected by contacting programs individually and utilizing the sustainability task force report. The scoring section related to curriculum is based on the portion of students who take courses with learning outcomes that are directly aligned to sustainability. Some courses within the Lassonde School of Engineering have tied their courses to learning outcomes in sustainability. Dean Sturgeon has requested to view the University's prepared submission. Alice Pitt will be contacted to discuss adding sustainable learning outcomes to the curriculum.

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUP CHAIRS/ CO-CHAIRS

Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group:

Andrew provided an update on the Administrative working group. Key updates included:

- Reviewing previous recommendations put forward by the working group in the annual reports since 2008 and assessing their completion status. An update will be provided at the February meeting.
- Discussing the recommendation from last year's report on strategic planning for sustainability and conducting an analysis of existing plans at other Universities to determine whether to recommend that York should develop a sustainability plan.
- The waste initiative pilot in classrooms was launched in the Fall term. The results of the initiative will be shared with the working group in January.

Campus Operations and Development Working Group:

The working group chairs are exploring ways to be more effective and strategic with their meeting time. The working group is open and includes various people from across the University. Outstanding recommendations from previous annual reports will be addressed by the group in the new year. Jason Gerrity would like to engage in discussions with the group on how UIT can assist the University to be more productive and sustainable with printing.

Curriculum Working Group:

The working group has not held a meeting. Martin Bunch will reach out to the co-chairs to follow-up on the group's progress and initiatives.

Social Justice & Human Rights Working Group:

Noël Badiou provided an update on the working group meeting discussions. Key updates included:

- A sub-working group has been established to look at community benefit agreements
- The working group is reviewing past recommendations and determining which ones need to be archived or streamlined
- The chair will send invitations to York University community members who may be interested in joining the working group
- The working group will revisit the recommendation on the use of campus space and review previous work that has been done on this topic

The sub-committee on community benefit agreements discussed next steps in creating a framework that is applicable to the York context. The group needs to determine goals and objectives for these types of agreements at York. A York grad (Dr. Nevena Dragicevic) was an author of a report on Universities as anchor institutions in their communities. The working group will be in touch with Dr. Dragicevic to see how this idea could be implemented at the University.

Presentation and Q&A Session

John Robinson presented on the University of British Columbia's sustainability strategic planning, communication and community engagement initiatives (see attached presentation). The presentation was well received and discussion followed.

Key discussion points included:

- Embedding sustainability in curriculum and UBC's strategies which included creating sustainable pathways opposed to developing new courses
- The role that a strategic plan has played in UBC's success in sustainability initiatives
- Carbon sequestration and the importance of building with wood
- The provincial government's building codes that support sustainability in British Columbia and when they were implemented

Dr. Robinson has made his slides available for distribution to PSC members.