

President's Sustainability Council Meeting
February 1, 2016 1:00pm – 2:30pm
956 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In Attendance: Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Noël Badiou, Anthony Barbisan, Sarah Barrett, William Colgan, Richard Francki, Mikhaela Gray, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Ross McMillan, Yvette Munro for Alice Pitt, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Helen Psathas, Darryl Reed, Christine Till, Tim

Regrets: Idil Boran, Jennifer Chweiri, Jennifer Farmer, Sheila Forshaw for Janet Morrison, Richard Francki, Ian Garrett, Jason Gerrity, Dirk Matten, Gayle McFadden, Lawrence Packer, Adam Patrick, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Craig Scott, Noel Sturgeon, Laura Taylor, Michelle Uy, Chris Wong, Carol Yorkden-Chamberlain

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Martin welcomed new members to the Council. The Chair congratulated Noël Badiou on his new position as Assistant Vice-President, Diversity, Equity and Human Rights at Laurentian University.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and *carried* that the meeting minutes of December 7, 2015 be approved as presented.

BUISNESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair thanked the individuals involved in the unveiling of York's first Photovoltaic charging station event that took place in December.

Last meeting, Martin shared that York Region is hosting a sustainability competition. One student team from York University, supervised by Professor Mark Winfield, has been invited to York Region to participate in this initiative.

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Richard Francki delivered a presentation on urban forest management (see attached presentation). The presentation was followed by a discussion. Key discussion points included:

- The criterion used to determine which trees to plant
- Exotic versus native trees
- The impact the trees planted have on the ecosystem

The Campus Services and Business Operations department has an online data inventory that includes granular level data on trees. This information is available to the community and can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=5a443fd0617248be8113c5f3166ad1c4&extent=-79.5197,43.7672,-79.488,43.7802>

STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The student sub-committee chair was unable to attend the Council meeting to provide an update. The sub- committee will report on communities responsible for investing at the next meeting.

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:

- The waste initiative pilot in classrooms was launched in the Fall term. The results of the initiative will be shared with the working group by Joe Sanguedolce in February.
- The STARs submission is complete and will be submitted in February.
- The committee has reviewed sustainability strategic plans from several Canadian universities and colleges to determine the value of pursuing this initiative and whether or not York should consider implementing a strategy.

The next committee meeting will take place in March and all committee members are invited to attend.

Campus Operations and Development Working Group:

The working group met in January and there will be two more meetings this academic term. The working group has created two sub-working groups:

- Communication and Outreach, which will focus on signage and online tools
- Managing Posters

The working group is collaborating with UIT and printing services to create a recommendation on sustainable printing. They are also discussing transportation and electronic alternatives such as electronically charged shuttles and green fleet.

Social Justice and Human Rights Working Group:

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

- The members are working on existing recommendations that have been produced by the working group in years previous
- The sub-working group on community benefit agreements will be meeting the week of February 8, 2016
- Lorna Schwartzenruber is following-up with the working group on the use of University space

Martin informed the Council that there is a student in the Faculty of Environmental [Science Studies](#) that has completed research on the relationship between the community and the University. Martin will share this information with the working group chairs.

The social justice and human rights working group will meet in February and April.

Curriculum Working Group:

The working group has not held a meeting.

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The nominations for the President's Leadership Awards are open. Committee members are encouraged to nominate faculty, staff and students as well as, share information about the awards to the community. More information about the awards can be found at: <http://sustainability.info.yorku.ca/psc/awards/>

PSC ANNUAL REPORT

The PSC Annual Report agenda item has been deferred to the Council meeting in April.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council members engaged in a conversation on how the University could respond to the Paris Pledge for Action. Key discussion points included:

- Hosting a townhall or forum to discuss York's direction on sustainability in light of the pledge
- Create a carbon goal to build momentum
- Establish regulations on campus for renovations and retrofits

- Create a communications plan to introduce changes to the community

A concern was raised regarding the University completing the pledge. The progress York has made in sustainability may get diminished. It will be important to inform the community of the history of York's leadership in sustainability and focus on a few specific issues that the University can successfully address. The pledge should be a reaffirmation of York's commitment to sustainability.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:36pm.