

President's Sustainability Council Meeting
October 13, 2:00pm – 3:30pm
956 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In Attendance: Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Noël Badiou, Anthony Barbisan, Sheila Forshaw for Janet Morrison, Richard Francki, Jason Gerrity, Mikhaela Gray, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Gayle McFadden, Ross McMillan, Yvette Munro for Alice Pitt, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Helen Psathas, Lorna Schwartzentruber, President Shoukri, Michelle Uy, Chris Wong

Regrets: Idil Boran, Jennifer Chweiri, Jennifer Farmer, Ian Garrett, Michaela Hynie, Adam Patrick, Noel Sturgeon, Laura Taylor, Carol Yorkden-Chamberlain

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Martin Bunch welcomed those in attendance to the first meeting of the President's Sustainability Council for the 2015-2016 academic year. John Robinson, the Associate Provost Sustainability at the University of British Columbia, will attend the December or January Council meeting to present to the Council. There will also be a presentation at an upcoming meeting from CSBO on the management of campus forests. Last year, the Council submitted 4 new recommendations to the President. This year, the focus of the Council and the working groups will be to audit the 102 recommendations that have been made by the PSC to assess where they currently stand. New initiatives may also be explored. The structure of the PSC will be changing. In consultation with President Shoukri, the membership will be expanding to include representation from each Faculty. Members will be delegated by their respective Deans.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Martin Bunch motioned to approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2015. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Shoukri thanked the Council for their commitment and work to advance sustainability at York University. He noted that the work of the Council is what is keeping the University at the leading edge of sustainability. The President highlighted Martin Bunch's excellent leadership as Chair of the Council and thanked him for his service. It is because of the efforts of the Council that the University can continue to

move forward and improve in the area of sustainability. The water bottle phase out initiative was ambitious, but because of the dedication and hard work of many community members, it has successfully been completed. The President noted that he reviewed the 2014-2015 PSC Annual Report and appreciate the Council's foresight to recommend initiatives to improve sustainability at York. President Shoukri mentioned the recommendation regarding using the campus as a living lab. The President had discussed with Martin the opportunity to engage several classes to help re-imagine the use of the Commons once the subway station opens. The President expressed his appreciation for the hard work of Council members and emphasized how York is being praised for sustainability.

PSC ANNUAL REPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The PSC annual report structure will be different moving forward. Previous reports were 150 pages long with a lot of content. This year, the report has been divided into two different reports. The 2014-2015 PSC Annual Report will be posted to the website by the week of October 20, 2015 which will include the recommendations put forward by the Council. The second report will be 10-12 pages long and will serve as a communications tool on sustainability initiatives. Nicole Arsenault has been working with Andrew Plunkett to collect data on waste, transportation and energy use as well as to take photos for the report. It will be finalized by the end of October.

UPDATE ON BOTTLED WATER PHASE-OUT

In 2012 Dr. Shoukri and the president of the YFS made a pledge to ban bottled water. Pam Persaud provided the Council with several highlights of the phase-out:

- In 2014-2015, six committee meetings took place to discuss the phase-out plan
- 70 water refill stations have been installed across both campuses. The cost of water refill stations ranges between \$3000 - 5000. The cost variance is a result of the different types of models. The stations are funded by the Vice-President Finance and Administrations office. Water stations will continue to be installed in new buildings.
- Procedures were drafted and attached to the President's sustainability policy which is posted on the Secretariat's website.
- Communication included: 3 stories in yfile, a website, a campaign on LCD screens, hand-outs in Vari Hall Rotunda, posters, banners
- Consulted with Sport York and Convocation to address large scale events on campus
- Lobbied YUDC to put refill station in York Lanes

- There is a new SOP on cleaning water fountains
- Over 12,000 refillable bottles have been distributed annually for the past three years by the YFS and Andrew.
- Maude Barlow was the key note speaker of a water event to raise awareness in September 2015

Community members are working together to address concerns with the water bottle phase-out and large-scale events. 'Water on Wheels' equipment was purchased through financial support from the Office of the Vice-President Finance and Administration, CSBO, Food Services, and the Office of the Vice-Provost Students. The equipment is housed with Food Services and is available for use for large-scale University events (e.g. Lion's Pride orientation, Homecoming, etc.).

There was discussion regarding a YorkU graduate student concern about the fluoridation of water and the negative health affects it can cause. The issue was raised because the water stations on our campuses use water from the City of Toronto, which contains fluoride. The Council members would not like to see a presentation on the PhD student's research at a future meeting due to the controversial nature of the topic and the facts that Public Health has released.

PSC STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The student sub-committee is looking forward to actively participating and contributing to the President's Sustainability Council in the 2015-2016 academic year. The sub-committee will be bringing forward recommendations that are focused on students. Michelle Uy, Chair of the PCSS, and Andrew met with the College Presidents Association in the summer and they were supportive of hosting focus groups and events within the college complexes to discuss sustainability. They will reconnect by the end of October to create an action plan in collaboration with the college presidents.

There was discussion about introducing the Kill the cup campaign at York University. Kill the Cup is a one month campaign that helps community members shift their mindset on using paper cups. Key discussion points included:

- Promoting discounts for using reusable cups
- The challenges with food services current infrastructure and supporting washing facilities
- Community members need to be educated on the issues before beginning second phase-out and a plan needs to be clearly articulated

- *Cupanion* is a company that sells reusable containers. Anthony would like to discuss with the student sub-committee how this could be used to modify and incentivize behavior
- Availability of reusable containers such as china, portable coffee mugs etc. is key to the success of a phase-out

Michelle Uy will give an update on the disinvestment working group's reports at Council meetings moving forward. Anisha, the student representative for this working group, is a part of the student sub-committee meetings and will provide a report to the Chair of the PSCSS prior to Council meetings.

STARS SUBMISSION

In summer 2015, Andrew and a work study student collected information from across campus to prepare for the STARS submission. Andrew reviewed the summary of the information collected in each of the summaries. The assessment shows that York University ranks silver and the accreditation would last for three years. The submission could be used as a gap analysis to help inform the community how to improve sustainability moving forward. The STARS submission process is changing at the end of October 2015, so it is important to York to file the work that has been completed to date. Once the submission is on the STARS website, it will become a public record. The submission can also be used as a tool to track the University's progress once every three years. The Council voted unanimously to file the submission as presented by the end of October 2015.

PSC MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the President's Sustainability Council will be expanding to include faculty members from each Faculty. The Deans will be invited to delegate a member from their Faculty to join the committee. Members will be expected to be a part of a working group as well as attend the Council meetings.

PSC WORKING GROUPS for 2015-2016

The Council has submitted 102 recommendations to the President. This year, working groups are asked to review past recommendations and assess their status. Martin will meet with the working group chairs to determine how to best assess the recommendations and he will attend working group meetings. The four working groups from 2014-2015 will continue to the current academic year. The working groups are as follows: The Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group, the Curriculum Working Group, the Social Justice & Human Rights Working Group and the Campus

Operations & Development Working Group. Council members were given the opportunity to suggest new working group topics. It was suggested to add a working group on Health and Wellness. The working group would focus on how to use the commons, discuss mental health, smoking issues, community health and individual health concerns. Committee members were concerned about adding a fifth working group due to individual time and commitment constraints. It was suggested that Health and Wellness be discussed within each of the standing working groups.

FUTURE PSC MEETINGS

The 2015-2016 meeting dates have been confirmed as follows:

1. Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:00-3:30pm (956 Kaneff Tower)
2. December meeting To Be Confirmed.
3. Tuesday, February 2, 2016 1:00pm - 2:30pm (956 Kaneff Tower)
4. Friday, April 22, 2016 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (956 Kaneff Tower)

There will be presentation on the following topics at future PSC meetings:

- Urban Forest Management at York University
- Investigate sustainability planning for York - John Robinson, UBC
- Atkinson Foundation York representative, Dexter King to be invited to discuss Community Benefit Agreements
- New building design

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Shoukri has asked the Council to reimagine the use of the Commons once the subway arrives. Martin will talk to the Council at the next meeting about how members may approach that.

Regenesis recently passed a referendum among the student body. The levy organization will receive approximately \$210,000 as per year. VPFA and SC&LD are creating an MOU to set out an operating framework. Regenesis plans to use the funds for farmers markets, bike shop, a free shop and other sustainable initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.