

President's Sustainability Council Meeting
September 23, 2016 10:30am – 12:00pm
956 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In Attendance: Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Steve Aslop, Michael Charles, Jenessa Doherty, Anthony Barbisan, Richard Francki, Ian Garrett, Mikhaela Gray, Usman T. Khan, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Helen Psathas, Darryl Reed, Craig Scott, Sapna Sharma, President Shoukri, Michelle Uy, Chris Wong

Regrets: Noel Sturgeon, Laura Taylor, Carol Yorkden-Chamberlain, Sheila Forshaw for Janet Morrison, Jason Gerrity, Ross McMillan, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Yvette Munro for Alice Pitt

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Martin Bunch welcomed those in attendance to the first meeting of the President's Sustainability Council for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Chair thanked members for their willingness to participate on the Council and for their contributions. Martin noted the productive year that the Council had last year and thanked members for the Council's hard work. The next year has a full agenda including; adding a working group focused on research, following-up on previous recommendations, as well as, creating a sustainability strategic plan.

Additional members will be appointed throughout the Fall term. All Council members are expected to join a working group in order to help facilitate the development of the strategic plan. There are currently four working groups:

- Administration
- Campus Operations and Development
- Human Rights
- Curriculum

Vice-President Research and Innovation Rob Hache will talk about his proposal to create a working group focused on research at the next President's Sustainability Council meeting.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Shoukri noted that he is proud to have encouraged and suggested the creation of the President's Sustainability Council. York is a leading institution on issues

related to sustainability broadly-defined. Sustainability is a part of every area of our campuses and the goal of the Council is to bring together a diverse group of community members to share perspectives and generate ideas. The President thanked Martin for accepting to continue in the role of Chair of the Council during his sabbatical. He also thanked Richard Francki and Chris Wong for their hard work on infrastructure development on campus and their important role in maintaining sustainability. Dr. Shoukri thanked the Council for the work they are doing and the leadership that members are exercising through their participation.

Dr. Shoukri highlighted the many successes that the University has achieved including the opening of new sustainable buildings and the opening of the Eco Centre in Costa Rica. The new Eco Campus has a strong relationship with the local community and demonstrates an expanded meaning to sustainability. The President is excited about the development of the Commons, which includes the departure of the buses, and is looking forward to the opportunity to create a gathering place for communities.

President Shoukri read last year's annual report. He endorses a lot of the recommendations and in particular the one about creating a strategic plan and noted that it will be an integrated framework for what York is already doing. The University needs to restate its commitment to sustainability and create an integrated plan which will include everything from academic plans to our commitment to research. It is an imperative that academic institutions lead in sustainability and more work can be done at York University. The Council has the support of the President and the Administration to continue to advance sustainability on our campuses.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Martin Bunch motioned to approve the meeting minutes of April 22, 2015. There were several changes presented by the floor at the meeting regarding the Campus Operations and Development Working Group's report summary. Pamela and Nicole will send changes to the minutes to Mikhaela. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

a. Business Arising from the Minutes

The application submitted for the charging stations to the Provincial Government was not successful. An application was submitted for 10-12 charging station at Keele and Glendon. No Universities received funding. The work put into developing the proposal included mapping out the locations for each of the stations. As a result, York now has a multi-phase plan to install them over the next 5-6 years. Social etiquette guidelines for using charging station are being developed. Richard will share the draft document with

Martin. York University is in the RFP process to purchase Electric Vehicle Recharging Stations for public use.

York joined the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC) in an effort to secure an electric fleet of buses. Grants and funding approvals are more difficult for CUTRIC than anticipated. York has not received a grant at this time. The existing buses that the University has are dying and York can only afford to replace them with diesel buses. Nicole is pursuing opportunities to secure electric buses but Transportation Services needs creative ideas for a temporary solution to get through the next few months.

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIC PLAN

The process and timing for the sustainable strategy is being developed. The process will be outlined by Vice-President Finance and Administration Gary Brewer with Martin and the strategy will be resourced with people to assist in the process. Richard and Martin will take on a leadership role in the engagement of the community to help inform the strategic plan. A sustainability plan will have goals and set targets which the University can track from year to year. Currently, the University has a research strategy plan which took a year to develop through the Vice President Research and Innovation's office. The sustainability strategy will parallel this process. The plan will draw heavily on the Council and will include consultations with a wide-range of stakeholders in the University. There will be at least five Council meetings this academic year.

Council members who are interested in being a part of the core strategic planning team should let Martin know. Martin envisions that a Chair or Co-Chair from each of the working groups will be a part of the planning team. Working groups need to decide who their Chair/Co-Chair will be for the upcoming year.

The following Council members have been involved in a strategic planning process before: Andrew Plunkett, Pamela Persaud, Michael Charles, Richard Francki, Craig Scott, Martin Bunch, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues and Ian Garrett.

The strategy will be responsible to the community and reflective of York. It will recognize the contributions of campus partners and the history of York. The purpose of the strategic plan is to build on the strengths of York, as well as, to educate community members on what has taken place to improve sustainability to date. There are generally four phases that an institution goes through in regards to their efforts related to sustainability:

- 1) Grassroots phase
- 2) An Advisory Body formed

- 3) Undertake strategic plan process
- 4) Integrated into the culture of the institution

Martin noted that the process will begin with focusing on curriculum and relationships with the community. The strategic planning process will connect with CSBO at points when their department has time to provide input and feedback.

PSC ANNUAL REPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

A new sustainability report will be released to the community in the new year. Andrew is currently working with campus partners to collect information for the report. This report will mirror last year's inaugural condensed model with infographics in order to communicate information easily with the community.

The 2015-2016 PSC Annual report has received comments from several people. This report will be finalized by the end of September. This report is used to track the progress of past recommendations. Mikhaela will circulate last year's report to the Council. A concern has been raised that the report is getting longer each year and it is difficult to read. This concern has been added to the Administrative Working Group's agenda for the upcoming year. A suggestion to address this concern included creating a narrative on recommendations from the past year where each of the working groups would have 1-2 pages to discuss their progress and work. Tracking the recommendations would take place in an appendix. Updates on this item will be provided to the Council for consultation. Andrew asked Council members to share suggestions through email if they cannot attend the working group meeting.

A discussion took place on Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARs). York needs 20 more points in the STARs assessment to reach gold. This program is used to track York's progress every three years. York received zero out of eight points on the curriculum portion of the assessment. The STARs credits could be helpful in the strategic planning process. Andrew will share the credits York has received with the various working groups.

PSC STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The student sub-committee would like to work on a number of initiatives in the 2016-2017 academic year. Michelle provided an overview of their plan for the year to the Council.

The students would like to promote a Green Club Representative initiative. A checklist will be created to guide student organizations to become more sustainable. Michelle will

share the guideline with Jair from the Student Success Centre so that clubs can be more formally recognized for their sustainable efforts. They will also research adding provisions in student group constitutions about minimizing waste.

The student sub-committee would also like to recommend that the PSC consider increasing student engagement by recognizing more student research and student-led initiatives that are promoting sustainability on our campuses. The sub-committee has discovered that students do not always have the time and resources to submit an application for the President's Sustainability Awards. It was suggested that an award be created specifically for undergraduate students. Andrew will look into having consultations available for community members who are preparing an application for the awards to support them in the process.

The student sub-committee would also like to address the waste created by poster on campus. They would like to generate an incentive for clubs to advertise their events without using posters.

The sub-committee is working with YSEC to create a lug-a-mug campaign. The campaign's goal is to reduce waste produced by coffee cups on campus. At the end of the year the sub-committee will present to the Council their promotional and campaign plan.

Discussion followed the student sub-committee update. Martin indicated that he would like to see student engagement and consultation in the strategic planning process. Pam expressed her support of the recommendations made by the student sub-committee and encourages the group to work with campus partners around the table on the initiatives. The orientation planning team is considering adding a good quality multi-function bottle to orientation kits which would complement the lug-a-mug campaign. It was noted that the University will need student buy-in to have the campaign actualized and to initiate change on our campuses. It was mentioned that a report facilitated by Phil Stoesser, demonstrated that the student body was apathetic towards sustainability in general.

FUTURE PSC MEETINGS

The next PSC meeting will take place in October and the third meeting will take place in December. Working group meetings should take place prior to the October meeting. For the working groups that no longer have a Chair/Co-Chair, Andrew and Martin will organize the meetings on the working group's behalf and a Chair will be selected at the meeting.

Council members would like John Robinson to speak again at a PSC meeting this academic year. Rob Hache will be invited to speak on research at the October meeting. If Council members have other guests that they would like to invite to a meeting they should let Martin know.

OTHER BUSINESS

York is accepting applications for funding related to Canada150 initiatives. Martin and Andrew are working on a proposal regarding the vision of sustainability at York in 50 years. They are looking at organizing a facilitated exercise with a variety of stakeholders to envision what York might look like. Applications for this funding are due October 1, 2016. Members are asked to let Martin know by September 25, 2016 if there are interested in being a part of this project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.