

President's Sustainability Council Meeting
March 28, 2017 10:30 am – 12:00pm
626 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In Attendance: Martin Bunch (Chair), Nicole Arsenault, Anthony Barbisan, Sheila Forshaw, Richard Francki, Mikhaela Gray, Celia Haig-Brown, Yvette Munro for Alice Pitt, Pamela Persaud, Andrew Plunkett, Helen Psathas, Sapna Sharma

Regrets: Steve Aslop, Michael Charles, Michelle Chin-Dawe, Jenessa Doherty, Ian Garrett, Usman T. Khan, Dustin Klaudt, Dirk Matten, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Deborah McGregor, Ross McMillan, Noel Sturgeon, Laura Taylor, Carol Yorkden-Chamberlain, Jason Gerrity, Darryl Reed, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Craig Scott, Christine Till, Chris Wong

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Martin Bunch welcomed those in attendance to the third meeting of the President's Sustainability Council for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Martin welcomed Celia Haig-Brown, AVP Research, to the President's Sustainability Council. Celia joined the Council as a member of the Research Working Group. Associate Dean Ravi De Costa is also joining the Council. The first Research Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on March 29, 2017 at 10:00am. Council members expressed their interest in partnering with faculty members to tie research to sustainability objectives on campus. Members would like to see the working group reinforce the importance of promoting the campus as a living lab. Council members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Martin Bunch motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 17, 2017. The minutes were approved as presented.

2016-2017 PSC ANNUAL REPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The PSC annual report captures the work of the working groups and summarizes the meetings from each academic year. The sustainability report focuses on sustainability initiatives that are taking place across campus. The document is accessible and visually interesting to capture the attention of the wider community.

Time and attention has been focused this academic year on developing the sustainability strategy. Working group recommendations will be included within the goals and targets that are outlined within the strategy. The 2016-2017 report will be generated modelling previous reports which include: updates from the work that took place within the past academic year, new recommendations, an appendix tracking recommendations submitted by the Council in previous years and a summary report with infographics. The draft report will be prepared in mid-late May.

A discussion took place regarding the recommendations that are listed in the appendix of the annual report. It was suggested that a data base or Excel sheet could be used to track and follow-up on items. Council members also discussed the need for resource commitments when recommendations are approved. This will be discussed at the upcoming Administrative Working Group meeting and the Campus Operations and Development Working Group meeting.

The 2015-2016 sustainability infographic report is not completed. The design is in progress. The report should be finished and released by the Earth Day celebration on Friday, April 21, 2017.

The Sustainability Task Force Report was also discussed. This item will be brought to the research working group meeting for discussion.

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Nominations for the president's leadership sustainability awards opened in late January. The selection committee is meeting the week of April 3rd to adjudicate the awards. The awards began after a recommendation included in a PSC annual report five years ago. The awards are given to any community member who is involved in a sustainability initiative. The awards will be presented at the Earth Day event on April 21, 2017.

A Council member asked why the awards were not included with the President's Staff Recognition awards. It was noted that the Sustainability Awards can be won by staff, faculty, students and departments and that the Staff Awards are only for staff members. It was suggested that the award winners could have their names engraved on plaques in Vari Hall.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The sustainability strategy consultation process began on February 10th. A student focus group consultation took place on March 6th. Martin is presenting at each Faculty council meeting. 5 presentations have been completed to date. Two faculties have requested that Martin engage with faculty members in an alternative format. Martin has

approached CSBO and SAGE to present at an upcoming meeting. Martin reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that he shares at Faculty council meetings with the President's Sustainability Council (please see attached presentation).

Martin presented an overview of the themes that have arisen from the consultations. The community response includes a much more holistic definition of sustainability that includes a healthy campus, wellness and community. Martin reviewed the workshop summary report and findings (please see attached report). The workshop was focused on long-term goals envisioning York University in the year 2050.

Throughout the consultations, community members have identified that they want to ensure that the strategy is not solely an academic exercise but that resources are allocated to ensure that York University becomes a leader in sustainability.

A survey has been developed based on the priorities that were identified at the Sustainability Workshop. The survey will be sent through email to a group of 10,000 staff, students and faculty. The survey has also been shared through Y-File and promoted at Faculty council meetings. Council members are encouraged to share the survey with their respective constituents.

Upcoming working group meetings will be open to the community. The meetings will be focused on identifying high-level strategic goals that pertain to the working group which will be included in the sustainability strategy. Martin will share instructions for each of the working group chairs through email. Materials will also be made available for the working group chairs to assist with a "dot-mocracy" exercise to help prioritize goals

REPORTS FROM THE STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chair of the student sub-committee was not present at the meeting to provide a report. Andrew noted that the student sub-committee recently elected a new student executive for the 2017-2018 academic year. The new Chair is David Ravensbergen, a PhD student in Humanities.

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUP CHAIRS/ CO-CHAIRS

The first research working group meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday, March 29, 2017.

Administrative and Organizational Structure Working Group:

The working group has been focusing on the sustainability strategy. The working group is also reviewing the sustainability policy, discussing the implementation of a green fund

on campus and research on the feasibility of the fund. They will discuss revamping the PSC annual report and tracking recommendations through Excel or a database at the next meeting.

Campus Operations and Development Working Group:

The working group met on February 9 where members discussed strategic planning. The Markham campus was also discussed at the meeting regarding how to ensure that sustainability is built into campus planning. There was a presentation from two faculty members regarding a research project on tracking carbon emissions that is being developed by Professor Chen and Professor Kratchit. They are trying to get funding for their project and would like to begin research in Fall 2017. Nicole will send Martin the presentation and the professors' contact information.

Social Justice and Human Rights Working Group:

The Anchor Institutions draft framework report is almost complete. The four pillars of an anchor institution include: infrastructure, procurement, employment and community engagement. The working group chair met with David Coward, AVP HR, Alice Pitt and Rob Castle to discuss the report.

Curriculum Working Group:

The curriculum working group has not held a meeting this academic year. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, March 30, 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence has been awarded LEED Gold certification. The announcement will be made at the Earth Day event on April 21, 2017. The new Student Centre and Schulich expansion development plans are aiming for LEED Gold certification.

York University has registered as a participant in a cap and trade program. It received 52,000 free credits for 2017 which are roughly equivalent to our emissions. CSBO is currently conducting an energy retrofit for the Glendon Campus, working towards electrifying its fleet and carbon recovery at the Chimneystack building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.