**President’s Sustainability Council Meeting**

**October 16, 2018**

**211 Bergeron Centre**

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**Minutes**

**In attendance:** Usman Khan (chair), Nicole Arsenault, Anthony, Barbisan, Martin Bunch, Michael Charles, Paruksheen Dhunjisha, Hany Farag, Richard Francki, Byron Gray, Magdalena Krol, Carol McAulay, Neville McGuire, Matt Nevins, Helen Psathas, Richard Silva, Laura Taylor, Mario Verrilli, Christopher Wong

**Guest:** Frances Edmonds HP Canada & Sarah Winterton World Wildlife Fund

**Regrets:** Charles Cho, Cristina Delgado Vintimilla, Lucy Fromowitz (Mario Verrilli is designate), Celia Haig-Brown, Alice Hovorka, Pablo Idahosa, Donald Ippercial, Sebastien Lalonde, Tim Moore, Alice Pitt, Daryl Reed, Nancy Sangiuliano, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Craig Scott, Bryan Yau

1. **Chair’s Remarks**

Welcome and introductions by the Chair.

An acknowledgement for Mikhaela Gray’s contribution and dedication to the President’s Sustainability Council over the years and a congratulations on her accomplishments and convocation this week with a Master’s degree.

1. **Approval of meeting minutes**

Usman Khan motioned to approve the meeting minutes from April 27, 2018 and July 31, 2018.

The minutes were seconded by Michael Charles and approved as presented.

1. **Sustainability Strategy**

Nicole Arsenault provided an overview of the Sustainability Strategy which was published in 2017. The strategy can be found here.

<https://sustainability.info.yorku.ca/files/2017/11/17120-Sustainability-Strategy2017_FINAL.pdf>

**Working Group Re-alignment**

The structure of the new working groups was identified to coincide with the three pillars within the Sustainability Strategy “People”, “Knowledge” and “Place”.

**Working Group – People**

The focus of the working group in the current fiscal year will be to advance goal “PE2 York University’s holistic approach to sustainability includes social sustainability.  York is an inclusive and welcoming community that draws strength from inclusivity and diversity and a commitment to equity and social justice.”

**Co-Chairs:**

Michael Charles, Executive Director of the Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion (REI)

Nicole Arsenault, Program Director, Sustainability, VPFA

**Working Group – Knowledge**

The focus of the working group in the current fiscal year will be to advance goal**“**KN2: York University utilizes its campus operations, grounds and buildings as ‘living labs’ that provide experiential education opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students.”

**Co-Chairs:**

Martin Bunch, Associate Dean Research & Professor, FES

Nicole Arsenault, Program Director, Sustainability, VPFA

**Working Group – Place**

The focus of the working group in the current fiscal year will be to advance goal**“**PL2: As an established institutional value, York University makes sustainability visible and tangible on our campuses through intentional design that improves ecological and human well-being, supports experiential education, fosters innovation and demonstrates best practices.”

**Co-Chairs:**

Richard Francki, Assistant Vice-President, CSBO

Nicole Arsenault, Program Director, Sustainability, VPFA

1. **PSC Seminar Series**

Usman Khan announced the launch of the President’s Council Seminar Series, a great opportunity to showcase and highlight the research being done on campus:

* October 25, Professor A El Dyasti (Lassonde)
* November 29, Professor S Sharma (Biology)
* January 31, Professor M Gordon (Lassonde)
* February 28, Professor C Cho (Schulich)
* March 28, TBC

1. **Sustainability Awards & Event**

Usman Khan informed the committee that the Sustainability Awards for 2018 was delayed because of the labour disruption, he indicated a call was put out to the community and the selection committee had met. Further details will be announced later in the Fall on winners and an event.

1. **Sustainability Innovation Fund**

Nicole Arsenault provided an update that she was working on developing a sustainability innovation fund to support initiatives that advance York’s strategic sustainability goals in relation to teaching, learning and the student experience. Nicole indicated that they are currently in the planning process of establishing the fund and identifying funding sources, application process, rubric and selection committee.

1. **Next Meeting**

Monday, November 26 at 9 a.m. in 626 Kaneff Tower

1. **Other Business**

Anthony Barbisan indicated he attended Restaurants Canada trade show held this past summer, he attended a “Save On Energy” foodservice forum that was co-sponsored by Restaurants Canada and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).  Restaurants Canada is a national foodservice association with members from 30,000 businesses and institutions.  York U was selected as one of only 4 participants (and the only academic institution) for the Restaurants Canada Foodservice Energy Challenge (“FEC”). The benefits include:

* A free energy audit of the cafeteria (ASHRAE Level 2)
* A $4000 credit toward the purchase of Energy Star equipment and other partner discounts, and coordination with Toronto Hydro and Enbridge on applications for any eligible utility rebates
* York will be featured as a “Champion” to the foodservice industry in both Restaurants Canada’s media assets (including MENU Magazine, Menumag.ca, RC Insider, RC.org, RC Blog and social media channels), and FEC partner communications
* York will be included in the promotion of the FEC at the Restaurants Canada Show 2019 and 2020
* York will have the opportunity to be showcased as a Champion in the FEC video that will be produced to inspire the industry and show the value of energy savings
* A ½ day training workshop on operational practices for energy and water conservation
* A few other small bonuses including free attendance at the RC Show 2019 and a discount on the LEAF “green restaurant” certification that we were exploring

1. **Guest Presentation – WWF & HP Canada -Living Planet**

A guest presentation from Frances Edmonds from HP Canada and Sarah Winterton from WWF on Living Planet @ Campus & @ Work programs

<https://campus.wwf.ca/>

<http://atwork.wwf.ca/EN/>

Highlighted benefit of the program:

* Business engagement
* Free tools and resources that can be used for campus engagement
* Support from WWF
* Living Planet Leader – opportunity for students to gain experience, knowledge and engagement on sustainability issues
* Advancing the culture of sustainability at York U
* York U could be a case study for the program