## Minutes

**President’s Sustainability Council**

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2019

Location: 519 Kaneff Tower

Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Attendance:** Usman Khan, Chair; Nicole Arsenault, Anthony Barbisan, Charles Cho, Paruksheen Dhunjisha, Byron Gray, Celia Haig-Brown, Magdalena Krol, Carol McAulay, Helen Psathas, Daryl Reed, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Richard Silva.

**Guest:** Wesley Moir, Graduate Studies

**Regrets:** Martin Bunch, Cristina Delgado Vintimilla, Hany Farag, Lucy Fromowitz, Will Gage, Alice Hovorka, Pablo Idahosa, Sebastien Lalonde, Neville McGuire, Matt Nevins, Nancy Sangiuliano, Laura Taylor, Alice Pitt, Lorna Schwartzentruber, Mario Verrilli, Chris Wong, Bryan Yau.

1. **Chair’s remarks**
* The Chair welcomed everyone to the third council meeting of the academic year.
* Professor Khan acknowledged the loss of two members of the committee Richard Fancki (retired) and Michael Charles (moved to Carlton University) and thanked them for their contributions to the PSC.
* Professor Khan announced nomination for the President’s Sustainability Leadership Awards was open.
1. **Approval of minutes from November 26, 2018**

Helen Psathas motioned to approve the meeting minutes of November 26, 2018; seconded by Richard Silva. The minutes were approved as presented.

1. **Sustainability Innovation Fund**

Nicole Arsenault provided an overview of the project plan and the implementation process for the Sustainability Innovation Fund.

Feeback:

* Simplify the process remove the requirement for approvals to go through the Dean’s Office before submission.
* Selection Committee should have less staff from VPFA (remove Richard Silva) add more academic and staff.
* An updated project plan and process will be sent out to the PSC members for consultation.

1. **Times Higher Education (THE) & SDG’s**

Nicole Arsenault reported that *Times Higher Education (THE)* is developing a new global university ranking that aims to measure institutions’ success in delivering the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

* The 17 goals were adopted by the UN in 2016 and provide a framework for developing the world in a sustainable way.
* The first edition of the ranking will include metrics based on 11 SDGs, but the long-term goal is to measure performance against all 17 goals.
* Information/Data was collected from across the University which included information about Teaching & Learning, Research and Campus Operations and all submitted to the Office of Institutional Research, Reporting & Analysis
* This is a great start/baseline on how we can track moving forward our alignment with regards to the SDG’s
* In collaboration with FES and other campus partners, York U is hosting Sustainable Development Goal’s Youth Trainings session on campus on March 16, 2019.
1. **Reports Working Groups**
	1. **Place**

Helen Psathas & Nicole Arsenault reported:

* Richard Francki has retired; Helen Psathas will co-chair working group.
* Working Group - a high level overview of with goals and targets forward thinking to 2050 on how we reduce our GHG emissions; now is an opportunity to figure out the University’s climate change strategy.
* Utilizing RET Screen created a robust foundation for energy analysis and modelling on energy reductions.
* Opportunity for collaboration with research/teaching & learning and industry partners.
* Other keen interest from the community is moving to a circular economy and reduce organic waste to landfill & reduce single use plastic on campus.
* Somber announcement about reduced funding and budget cuts; this is an opportunity to look at how we integrate sustainability in both long-term institutional strategic planning and day to day decision-making.
	1. **Knowledge**

Nicole Arsenault reported:

* Working Group is doing an inventory of what is already happening on campus (curriculum)
* Looking for more opportunity for internship / on campus co-op
* Cross collaborations – on the Experiential Education Committee
	1. **People**

Nicole Arsenault reported:

* Michael Charles has left the University and taken a new position in Ottawa and Lorna Schwartzentruber will be co-chairing this working group.
* Centre for Human Rights Equity & Inclusion hosted Inclusion Day 2019 on January 24th explored the theme, **innovation through inclusion** – a quartet of compelling presentations from four global leaders on the creative potential of belonging.
* Project: Inclusion Video – what are the strength and weakness to building inclusion on campus (project commenced)
* Working with Anthony Barbisan and other campus partners on the Fair Trade Campus Designation
* WWF Living Planet @ Campus – we will be launching that this spring.

Lorna Schwartzentruber reported:

Anchor York U Update:

* + Social Procurement Working Group is drafting a Social Procurement Policy (ie. VOR local/diversity/inclusion)
* Employment Working Group
	+ Developing a strategy on how to engage local community with on campus employment opportunities
	+ Developing a strategy how do we engage the York U community to volunteer and on campus stewardship
	+ Sub-working group on volunteerism
1. **Guest Presentation**

Wesley Moir from the Faculty of Graduate Studies presented to the committee the background on Graduate student printing with a previous allotment of $300/academic year which has been phased out and challenges (ie. Department will have to absorb the cost if a supervisor wants a printed copy).

The proposal presented to council from FGS is to align with the President Sustainability Council for strategic support from a sustainability perspective on reducing paper printing.

Discussion with Council members followed.
A recommendation was made by the group to provide a letter of support to FGS.

1. **Other Business**

Professor Khan indicated with potential federal funding for GhG emission reduction; a new working group is being formed to include both academic and non-academic to strategically alliance to be ‘funding ready’ for funding ready projects to reduce York University’s carbon emissions.

1. **Next Meeting**

Monday, April 22nd in 956 Kaneff Tower