



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 7, 2024

Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, held via MS Teams, at Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
Present (voting):	Brad Harasymchuk (Chair), James Gordon, Catherine Tatarniuk (Vice-Chair), John Church, Kai Bauman, Shelley Church, Robyn Hollas, Heather MacLeod, Pete Hrkac, Scott Blackford, Vernie Clement	
Present (non-voting):	Anna Rogers, Pete Arkesteyn, Spencer Nevacshonoff	
Guests:	Nil	
Regrets (voting):	Bridget Chandakasirira, Elder Mike Arnouse, Maria Buff, Poonam Poonam, Warren Asuchak	
Regrets (non-voting):	Carolyn Ives, Sierra Rae, Natalie Yao	
Recording Secretary:	Lora Sartori	
CALL TO ORDER	Brad Harasymchuk in the Chair. The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, started at 12:03 p.m.	
WELCOME & Territorial Acknowledgement	Brad conducted the Territorial Acknowledgement. Pete Hrkac, new voting member introduced himself.	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA & MINUTES	The February 7, 2024 Agenda was unanimously adopted as presented (James Gordon motion / Heather McLeod 2 nd). Abstained: Scott Blackford and Vernie Clement The January 3, 2024 Minutes were unanimously adopted as presented (Heather McLeod motion / John Church 2 nd). Abstained: Vernie Clement and Scott Blackford	

MOTIONS

- a. None

PRESENTATIONS

- a. None

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- a. **SDG Week – March 4 – 8, 2024 Update – James Gordon**
- TRU is participating in SDG Week Canada.
 - The SDG Goals expire in 2030.
 - March 5, 2024 – Repair Café 10:00 – 3:00 at the TRU Makerspace. There will be 15 volunteers to repair clothing, small appliances, and bicycles. No gas powered equipment.
 - March 5, 2024 – Green Drinks at The Den.
 - March 7, 2024 – SDGs and the Global Super Snacks Event. John Church, Brad Harasymchuk and James Gordon are organizers. Grand Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Snacks from 17 Nations. Free event. 17 SDGs at 17 tables. Similar to last year's event. Trying to find action items for TRU, ESAC and/or Sustainability.
 - Vernie points out this is the same week as Indigenous Awareness Week. Maybe have a partnership?

Action Item: Vernie will reach out to James if there is there is a partnership opportunity.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- a. **Awards Sub-Committee – Report by Brad Harasymchuk**
- [ESAC Awards Link](#)
 - Deadline for nominations is February 26, 2024. Please reach out to Brad if you need any information.
 - The Sub-Committee will bring names back to the March ESAC meeting.

- Discussion: Employee ESAC Awards to get on the President's Employee Recognition Program. Need a champion to bring this forward.

Action Item: James will have an informal conversation with Matt Milovick and if Matt is receptive, then Brad, Scott and James will draft up a formal letter.

b. ESAC Zero Waste Sub-Committee – Anna Rogers

- Last Zero-Waste Meeting was January 16, 2024.
- WM has been tracking our waste streams and has presented information to the sub-committee. WM will keep presenting every meeting so we can see the dial move. Everything is monitored very closely including cameras on the trucks.
- Learning about types of contamination in residence.
- Finding opportunities to reduce tips.
- One stream we are looking at is a lot of food container waste (cups and clam shells). In discussions about reusable containers. Will engage with TRUSU and ESTR market. Collecting data.
- Also discussed a TRU Garage Sale/Swap. Will have a separate meeting in February to discuss details.
- Student Focus v. Office Asset Swap. May need 2 separate events.
- Book Recycling - Planet Earth dropped off the collection bin at the loading dock. Working with the library. Need signage and communication and roll out how the program will work.
- Brad said tried to use reusable plates from Aramark for an event. There was a fee for reusables. Cost was too high for their department

budget therefore had to use single-use plates. Robyn confirmed there is no charge if you are part of the pilot program. Only charged if dishes are not returned. Currently, departments have an option but in the future you will not be able to use single-use items.

c. ESAC Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee.

Report by James Gordon, Chair.

- The last Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee meeting was on December 5, 2023.
- Eric V. and Shannon M. have hired a consultant to draft the TRU Purchasing Policy with Sustainability embedded.
- Purchasing is sending out a Sustainability Questionnaire with Request for Proposals. Hopefully contracts in the future will be awarded 90% price based and 10% off the Sustainability Questionnaire.
- Early stages of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion elements into a purchasing framework. EDI framework will encompass the Indigenous Procurement.
- TRU is a member of [BCSPI](#). If you are interested in training, etc., contact Shannon Mazereeuw in Purchasing.

d. ESAC Core Theme Planning Committee – Brad Harasymchuk or James Gordon

- Alana Hoare from Quality Assurance used to help ESAC with reporting on the indicators.
- No one has been hired and there is no timeline but that reporting should carry on. James and Brad need to do this work without Alana.

e. ESAC Biodiversity Sub-Committee – Report by Shelley Church

- Biodiversity Meeting was January 18, 2024.
- Biodiversity is looking for new members.
- Sustainability Sticker contest.
- Tom Dickinson presented to the Biodiversity Subcommittee.
- Bird Strike film received more money and we will continue to put the film on campus windows.
- Working on protocol of what happens when a bird does strike your window.
- Will be presenting to Faculty Council and talk about biodiversity inventories.
- Tree App will be going into beta testing.
- Will be putting together a Biodiversity Inventory.
- iNaturalist App – hopefully to do a bioblitz in May.
- Bee City Application – James will have a meeting week of Feb 19 and will have more to report.
- Campus Tree Planting and mulching event in April.

f. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee – Carolyn Ives

- No course currently in development
- Will have an update hopefully next month about future plans.

**MANAGER OF
SUSTAINABILITY
PROGRAMS
REPORT**

Report by James Gordon, Manager of Sustainability Programs

- Sustainability Sticker contest – Deadline February 11th.
- TRU Sweater Day – February 15, 2024. Turning down the temperature to save energy. Visit Student Street in OM 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for hot chocolate and prizes.
- 3rd Annual Solar Table Design Competition. Will be located behind AE overlooking the City. Deadline March 4, 2024.
- EV Conversion of the Astro van is proceeding. Received a \$7,000 grant from BC Hydro for the conversation.
- Working on a report of over 100 goals from the Sustainability Strategic Plan.
- Will be apply for the [Times Higher Education Impact Ranking](#), similar to STARS – uses the SDGs to report.
- [Liveable Cities and Collaborative Communities Conference](#), February 22 – 24, 2024
- James and Maria went to the City Council meeting on February 6, 2024 and sat in the gallery to listen to the discussion regarding the pedestrian overpass. TRU was not asked to present. TRU has committed \$5M to the pedestrian overpass and the City also committed \$5M. Some members of council wanted to know why there is a delay in approvals. TRU has hired a consultant to help with the best location of the bridge. The consultant's report should be ready by April 30, 2024. City of Kamloops Council wants to get it built asap and unless it gets built asap, they may walk away. TRU wants to make their position clear and wait until the end of April for the consultant's report.

Motion: ESAC to send a letter to Kamloops Mayor and Council stating TRU would like to wait until the end of April, 2024 for the report of the independent consultant before discussing the location of the pedestrian bridge.
(James Gordon motion/Heather McLeod second).

- Discussion of Motion took place.

Amendment to Motion: ESAC to write a letter to both Senate and the Board that we believe that in order to go ahead with the pedestrian bridge we need to wait for the third party report regarding the best location of the pedestrian bridge. (James Gordon motion/John Church seconded)

- Discussion of Amended Motion took place.

In favour: 5
Opposed: 1
Abstain: 1

Motion: To extend the meeting time. (Shelley Church motion/James Gordon seconded)

In favour: 6
Opposed: 2
Abstain: 1

**ENERGY
PROJECTS REPORT**

Report by Natalie Yao, Energy Manager

No Report.

**CAMPUS
INFRASTRUCTURE
REPORT**

Report by Maria Buff, Director of Capital Projects

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

a. None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEXT MEETING

March 6, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.