



## Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 13, 2021

Due to Covid19, the committee meeting was held virtually using MS Teams

Thompson Rivers University

Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 12:00 PM

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>Present:</b>	Warren Asuchak, Scott Blackford, Christin Chen, Karl Fultz (Vice Chair), Robyn Hollas, Pete Hrkac, Carolyn Ives, Tina Matthew, Michael Mehta, Christine Miller (Chair), Bala Nikku, Jana Noskova, Dipesh Prema, Nicole Schabus, Meng Sun, Peter Tsigaris, Thamindu Widyaratne,	
<b>Participating by Teleconference:</b>	none	
<b>Absent:</b>	none	
<b>Regrets:</b>	none	
<b>Admin Support:</b>	Rikia Penchuk	
<b>Guests:</b>	none	
<b>Others:</b>	Alana Hoare (Office of Quality Assurance), Natalie Yao and James Gordon from Sustainability Office.	
<b>Vacancies:</b>	Deans Council Representative	
<b>CALL TO ORDER &amp; WELCOMES</b>	The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:05 pm by the Chair, Christine Miller, who welcomed everyone. A special welcome took place for Rikia Penchuk, who is the new assistant for the sustainability office. A round of introductions by everyone then took place.	
<b>TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	Christine Miller gave the territorial acknowledgement.	
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	On <b>MOTION</b> duly made it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the agenda as distributed, with one minor addition by James: four items to discuss.	

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Dec 2, 2020 were accepted.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

5a. TRU signing the climate emergency letter. Karl reported that the Board of Governors meeting went very well and the President of TRU has signed the letter, and it has been sent to the organization (<https://www.sdgaccord.org/climateletter>), however his administrative assistant has not heard back from them that it has been received. James will follow up. James also suggested that we should have a promotional photo of the President signing the letter.

**James**

Nicole recommended that it would be beneficial to include TRUSU signing the letter as well. James mentioned that he is waiting to hear back from Marcom regarding promotion.

**James**

Karl asked James to check in that we are on the agenda for the TRUSU meeting on Jan 13, 2021 for the TRUSU executive to sign the letter.

5b. Senate's Triennial Review Report. Christine reported that the form from Senate is still blank. Karl said that it is a survey that is sent to the ESAC members. Christine, James and Karl will meet to discuss this and the survey will be sent out within a few weeks.

**Christine,  
Karl,  
James**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

6a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee; report by Carolyn. Carolyn and both co-Chairs, Christine and Crystal Huscroft, plan to meet next week to discuss course learning outcomes for the new Indigenous sustainability course that is being created – they want to create a workshop so subcommittee members can determine outcomes for that specific course. They are in the process of sending out invitations to the university and the community.

**Christine,  
Carolyn**

6b). Awards Sub-committee report by Michael Mehta, Chair. The terms of reference are in order for the three awards and now it's time to seek nominations for them. James and Michael met to streamline the awards and they are now looking for nominees. Rikia will send the link again to committee members for nominations. Michael and James will look into Marcom promoting these awards. James asked that the committee members spend a few minutes to think of some nominees and perhaps ask their co-workers. Karl mentioned that it would be a good idea to highlight the deadline for committee members, which is Feb 22.

**Michael,  
James,  
Rikia**

6c. ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee; report by James, Chair. James reported that the committee met on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and the main issue discussed was ways to deal with cigarette butts landing on the ground instead of the receptacles. Two 'ballot box' ashtrays have been installed for this issue. Also, steps have been taken to partner with Terracycle, who recycles cigarette butts. The committee is considering ways to adopt a reusable cutlery program at some point as well. James and Robyn will discuss this idea. Michael mentioned that it would be beneficial to have these initiatives in place before on-campus learning resumes. James agreed but one of the problems is that we don't have enough people-power right now and the STARS reporting cycle is taking up a lot of time.

**James and  
Robyn**

6d. ESAC Core Theme Planning sub-committee. Report by Alana Hoare, Chair. The committee is looking at a score card, and ways to establish baseline data. The committee will revisit 5 year targets and come up with a plan to make sure they are fulfilling thresholds. Most of the new measures do not have historical measures.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Warren reported that they are working on two projects. 1) A low-carbon study at Upper College Heights (East Village). Which will start Spring 2021. 2) Low-carbon district energy project. Once complete, the project will reduce GHGs by 90/95%. The remaining CO2 will be offset by buying offsets.

Once built, the key infrastructure will help meet TRU's target of being carbon neutral by 2030. TRU is working through the legal agreements and hopefully the construction will start in January 2022, with completion in Feb 2023.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

James reported on four items. 1) A staff sustainability literacy assessment survey was emailed to staff and faculty through the Ecom list, as well as advertised in The Bulletin. 2) The Sweater Dance event announcement has been sent out. It is on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> via Microsoft Teams. 3) Will be launching the All-TRU Sustainability Educators Program where people will share one-minute stories about anything to do with sustainability. A database will be created to share these stories, and it can be accessed anytime. 4) James has spoken with Eric Vandermeulen in the Purchasing Dept about sitting on a subcommittee concerning sustainable purchasing. Hopefully Eric will be the Chair. Karl mentioned that Eric should discuss the sustainable procurement guide at reading week.

Karl's retirement is at the end of March. Thanks were given to Karl on his tireless efforts and contribution to this committee. The possibility of creating a 'community liaison' position was mentioned, and perhaps it could be a possibility for Karl to remain on the committee. Christine suggested that we make a formal nomination at the next meeting in February for a new Vice Chair, which Karl is now. Peter nominated Tina Matthew, and Carolyn seconded this.

Bird Strike film still needs to be installed on various campus buildings as per the plan. Karl reported that we have the film but we do not have a plan to apply the film. It would be preferable to have it applied before bird migration. Warren will head up this project. Karl will send the list of buildings that have been worked on and the ones that still need to be worked on. (Tom Dickinson mentioned to James that the rolls of film are in the Science office.)

**CORRESPONDENCE** None.

**NEXT MEETING** February 3, 2021- 12:00 to 1:30 pm—Virtual via MS Teams

**ADJOURNMENT** Adjourned at 1:22pm

---

*Signature of Chairperson, Chair*

---

*Signature of Vice-Chairperson, Vice-Chair (if required)*