

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 1, 2014

Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the Independent Centre boardroom,
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 4:00 pm.

HEADING	ITEM / DISCUSSION	ACTION
ATTENDANCE		
Present:	Scott Blackford (designate from TRU office of Legal Counsel); E. Bourassa; J. Gudjonson; M. Harrison; H. Hove; C. Huscroft; L. Komori; S. Learie; S. Perkins-Taal; S. Purdy (Chair); W. Singular; P. Tsigaris	
Participating by Teleconference:	None	
Regrets:	M. Gordon; D. Parkes; G. Read; A. Saweczko; J. Sparks; L. Tabata	
Guests:	Katt Stearns, from Katt Stearns Consulting (consultant running the social media program for the TRU Office of Environment and Sustainability (TRUOES))	
Others:	J. Gordon (note-taker, TRUOES)	
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES	<i>The meeting being duly constituted for the conduct of business, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. Two new members, Scott Blackford, from TRU Legal Counsel, and Sofia Perkins-Tall, a TRU student in Repertory Therapy, along with Katt Stearns, TRUOES's social media consultant, were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair.</i>	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<i>On motion duly made by E. Bourassa, and seconded by S. Learie, it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed.</i>	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<u>Minutes of September 3, 2014</u> <i>On motion duly made by M. Harrison and seconded by J. Gudjonson, it was RESOLVED to approve the September 3 Minutes as distributed.</i>	
BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	<u>Regarding ELECTIONS of EAC Chair and Vice-chair.</u> J. Gudjonson ran the election. Both positions are for a one year term. S. Purdy was elected again as the Chairperson (Thank you	

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Susan!), and W. Singular was elected as Vice-Chair (Thank you Wayne!)

On development of new Strategic Sustainability Plan (SSP), formerly called the Campus Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP).

J. Gudjonson reported that the SSP was approved by the TRU Board last week. In general, all comments on it were very positive and no big issues were brought forward that need attention. The next step for the plan is that it will go before the Senate for information purposes. Jim needs to talk to Matt Milovick, TRU VP Finance, to discuss next steps before the plan is officially launched. Jim will send a pdf of the plan to all members of the EAC for their review and comments. Jim will also coordinate the development of a digital ‘dashboard’ that will help track the key performance indicators of the 18 themes identified in the plan over five years. Once the dashboard is running, quarterly reports will be generated from it showing how the plan is infolding; infographics will be part of these reports and these will be an invaluable communication tool.

J. Gudjonson

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The structure of the SSP is very comprehensive and mimics many aspects of the STARS report, which is an indication of TRU’s sustainability performance in regards to all aspects of its operations (for instance, the physical operations of the facility; foci of its course offerings; type of purchasing procedures it has; its investment choices; and the types of research pursued by students and faculty). The STARS report is over-seen by ASSHE (the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) and reporting takes place this year (due mid-December) and every three years. The report is put together by TRUOES. In 2011, TRU received a Silver rating, and it is anticipated that despite improvements in many areas, TRU will achieve Silver again. The long-term goal is to shoot for Gold in 2017, and then plan for how to attain Platinum (which no North American institution has achieved).

Plans to form EAC sub-committee to look at entrenching and infusing sustainability into TRU academics

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Uli Scheck, TRU Provost & Vice-President Academic, is generally very supportive of this initiative and is willing to lend his support to form, somehow, a Minor in Sustainability (which might be cross-disciplinary). One of the tricky parts of doing so is which faculty it would 'live' under. Maybe it could be an inter-disciplinary minor (but this still makes it an Arts-based program). S. Purdy will take steps to form sub-committee comprised of members from, ideally, all faculty curriculum committees. The following EAC members have agreed to sit on it: E. Bourassa; M. Harrison; S. Perkins-Taal (student); s. Purdy; and P Tsigaris. It was agreed that the following are needed for the sub-committee: a TRU sustainability course inventory and s working group of ustainability-related course outcomes. The TRUOES office is currently putting together the inventory and it should be available within a week or two. J. Gordon will provide it once complete.

S. Purdy

J. Gordon

Discussion on changing scope and name of EAC to the TRU Sustainability Advisory Committee (or related name)

There was discussion by several members around the pros and cons of such a change. It was decided that the working group of J. Gudjonson, S. Purdy and W. Singular will draft a Terms of Reference for such a change and send it to all EAC members for their consideration by Oct 29. Members will then then discuss the issue at the next EAC meeting on Nov 5. If changes to the EAC's name and/or scope are voted on for approval, then these will need to go before the Senate for its approval. It meets on Nov 24 (4:30 to 6:30) and Dec 15 (3:30 to 5:30).

J. Gudjonson

Update on major sustainability event that TRU Office of Environment and Sustainability is sponsoring: The CommUnity Innovation Lab (CIL)

J. Gudjonson and J. Gordon reported that the CIL will take place at TRU on Feb 3 to 5, 2015 and is expected to attract 300-400 delegates from all sectors of society; mostly from Kamloops, the region and around BC. Joanne de Vries, from Kelowna's Fresh Outlook Foundation, is the event organizer.

The point of the event is to consider three prominent issues facing

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the community of Kamloops in the near-term future (that were decided upon at a Oct 2 workshop, described below) and, by the end of the conference, agree upon workable, actionable solutions to those three issues. Those solutions will then be given to someone for 12 months—perhaps a Masters student who will turn the project into a thesis—so that they can be brought to reality. The CIL is an action-focused event as opposed to a presentation-focused one.

Joanne claims this is the first event of its kind in North America, and the lessons learned from Kamloops will be used to form an event template, which other communities can then use to go through a similar process.

J. Gordon will verify with Joanne whether she still plans to host a 'sustainability village' (also known as an exposition), whereby during some portion of the three days, anyone or any group with any interest in sustainability can come together to: show/sell their wares, discuss their ideas, promote their group, etc.. people both attending the 'village' and participating in it would likely come from local non-profs, for-profs, community groups, academics, gov't, general public, etc..

J. Gordon

Leading up to the CIL, there is a workshop on Oct 2 in Kamloops for 60 influential community members from all sectors of society. During this workshop delegates will be asked to work together through a series of group exercises in order to identify what the three prominent Kamloops issues will be.

EAC sub-committee discussing vision of a 'TRU Sustainability Centre'

In light of the current focus on developing more sustainability-related course offerings, this initiative will be 'shelved' for the time being.

Remediation of grasslands behind Warehouse

S. Purdy reported that TRU professor Peggy Broad and her students just replanted the disturbed area with native plants. The

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	<p>only remaining thing that needs to happen is the installation of educational/interpretive signs and a permanent kiosk to house them. S. Purdy is looking after this. Trades will build the kiosk in the spring, and Les Tabata said in a previous EAC meeting that his office would help fund at least some of the expense for the signs. There are endangered species in the area and the public should know something about them. Bryan Daly, the interim Dean of Trades, is on-board with this basic plan. L. Komori has said that her office, TRU Marketing and Communications, would likely be willing to help support the project with graphic design assistance for the signage. Guest, Katt Stearns, said she could support the project by posting/blogging about the story. The area in question is set aside as a protected natural area in the TRU Master Plan and S. Purdy says that steps are afoot (no pun intended) to make sure this type of incident doesn't happen again.</p>	S. Purdy
	<p><u>Initiative to phase out desk-top printers</u> J. Gudjonson reported that the plan to phase out most desk-top printers out is moving ahead. Existing printers can remain active if people want to keep using them but no new ones will be bought by TRU unless there are special circumstances, such as mobility issues. Since some people use desk-top printers when printing privacy-related documents so that they can grab them before anyone else sees them, educating all TRU staff on how to print these documents securely on the large multi-function printers would have to happen. J. Gudjonson will adjust the letter coming from the EAC to reflect these concerns before sending it to Matt Milovick, next week.</p>	J. Gudjonson
PRESENTATIONS	None.	
REPORT OF COMMITTEES	None.	
DIRECTOR'S REPORT	J. Gudjonson reported on the following:	

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	<p>TRU's Zero-Waste initiative. Eighty new Zero-Waste Stations were ordered (70 indoor and 10 outdoor) and these should arrive in November. TRU is now a member of the National Zero waste Council. L. Komori asked to be informed of all 'good news stories' that arise from this initiative, so that she can use them in her work with TRU MarComm.</p> <p>Nearing completion of installation of 52 new powerful hand-dryers in high-traffic washrooms. This project, from TRUSU's Eco Club, was the winning submission from last Spring's Sustainability Grant Fund. Now that there are no paper-towel dispensers in these washrooms, there are germ concerns since people can't use paper towel to open the door handles. J. Gudjonson reported that measures to address this are being looked into by Facilities, such as hand-sanitizer dispensers near washroom exits and hooks on the bottom of doors that are foot operated.</p> <p>Energy efficiency projects. The installation of a new high-efficiency boiler in the CAC is nearing completion, and the installation of a 40 panel solar PV array on the CAC roof should be complete by the end of November. The panels should power all of the lights and plug-loads in TRUSU.</p>	
NEW BUSINESS	None.	
CORRESPONDENCE	None.	
NEXT MEETING	November 5, 2014 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the TRUSU Boardroom.	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.	

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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