



Minutes of the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 6, 2020

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
ATTENDANCE		
Present:	Scott Blackford, Karl Fultz (Chair), Jim Gudjonson, Robyn Hollas, Pete Hrkac, Carolyn Ives, Tina Matthew, Christine Miller, Jana Noskova, Dipesh Prema, Dev Shah, Peter Tsigaris	
Participating by Teleconference:	none	
Absent:	Warren Asuchak	
Regrets:	Raikhan Amanzholova, Tom Dickinson (Vice Chair), Bala Nikku, Nicole Schabus	
Admin Support:	James Gordon	
Guests:	Michael Mehta, Yangchao (Paul) Hu	
Others:	Alana Hoare (Office of Quality Assurance), Natalie Yao (Sustainability Office)	
Vacancies:	1 faculty member	
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMES	The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, was called to order at 12:05 pm by the Chair, Karl Fultz, who welcomed everyone.	
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Karl Fultz gave the territorial acknowledgement.	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	On MOTION duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as distributed.	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	Minutes of March 4 were accepted. There was no April meeting and hence no Minutes.	

PRESENTATIONS Karl presented the following 2020 awards:

- TRU Staff /Faculty Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award: Dr. Michael Mehta, faculty member with Geography and Environmental Studies
- TRU Student Environmental Sustainability Achievement Award (2 awards):
 - Dev Shah
 - Anna Bashkatova
- TRU Tom Owen Environmental Sustainability Award: Yangchao (Paul) Hu (student)

**BUSINESS
ARISING FROM
MINUTES**

6a. Regarding the matter of the Board of Governors agreeing that TRU should sign the climate emergency letter (<https://www.sdgaccord.org/climateletter>), Karl reported that due to Covid-19 there was no chance on getting this issue on the agenda for the Board of Governors meeting on March 27 for discussion and, hopefully, approval. After discussion at today's meeting, it was agreed that Karl trying to get this on the Oct or Nov agenda is the next plan.

Karl

6 b). Tom's report was tabled in regards to the Dean's Council vote to add to the March 18 meeting Agenda a discussion of the ESAC motion to create a team-taught interdisciplinary sustainability course that would help students meet the new and upcoming General Education requirements. Carolyn reported that the April meeting was cancelled, and that she has no other news except that she hopes for a meeting of the Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Steering Sub-committee before July.

Tom

6c. James reported that in regards to discussions with TRUSU about setting waste parameters so that vendors at the Back-To-School BBQ (TRU's largest event) won't bring so many single-use items that need disposing of, he sent an email to Nathan Lane but has had no response. He will follow up.

James

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEES**

7a. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum sub-committee. Committee report by Carolyn: She will try to schedule a June meeting to discuss setting-up the following,

Carolyn

an interdisciplinary course, the working title of which is 'Indigenous Interdisciplinary Sustainability'.

7b). Awards Sub-committee. Scott, the Chair, reported that even though the four 2020 awards were just awarded, action should be taken in Sept to prepare for the 2021 awards. He also said he will step down as Chair after serving in the role for over a year. It was widely suggested at today's meeting that it would be great if someone from current award winners would sit as the Chair in order to organize the process to get nominations for the following year. Michael Mehta agreed and will sit as Chair, and Jana agreed to join the committee as well. Thank you Michael and Jana! James has to send the three student winners their wooden plaques, and confirm time-lines for members sitting on this sub-committee.

Michael
Jana
James

7c). ESAC Zero Waste sub-committee. Committee report by James, Chair. A virtual meeting will be planned for later in May. With James' work with the Sustainability Office, the beginning steps have been taken to create a 5 year zero waste plan to try to get to 95% diversion from landfill (the definition of 'zero waste'). The sub-committee's ideas will be sought out for this plan.

James

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Standing report on note-worthy energy projects and plans.

Jim reported on the following:

- BC Hydro has extended its contract with TRU for another 2 years (on top of the 11 years so far) to help with electrification projects on campus. This is great news.
- Phase 1 of this electrification project is moving ahead, which include Old Main, Science, TTC and parts of the Reach project.
- Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, energy use in many campus buildings has been reduced significantly. There is approximately 35% less energy being used in these sectors of the campus, and Jim thinks this could drop to 50% in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS Jim reported that due to Covid-19, asking about the following is on hold: TRU signing the pledge for the Post Landfill Action Network (PLAN) Break Free From Plastic Pledge. (<https://www.waste360.com/plastics/plan-unveils-break-free-plastics-campus-pledge>). Jim will talk with Scott about legal issues re TRU signing it.

Jim

CORRESPONDENCE None.

NEXT MEETING June 3, 2020 - 12:00 to 1:30 pm— Virtual via MS Teams.
This is the last ESAC meeting until Sept 9, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT Adjourned at 1:10pm

Signature of Chairperson, Chair

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

