

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 2nd December, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Present: J. Murray, B. Christianson, R. Reid, P. Powers, S. Purdy, G. Hayes, L. Tabata, T. Owen

Guests: Michelle Harrison, Kaitlin Boyd

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Judith Murray in the Chair. The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Transportation Demand Management, Recycling, and Water Bottle Filling Stations were added to the agenda under Any Other Business.

On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the agenda as amended.

J. Murray

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 28 October, 2009 as circulated.

S. Jackson

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

According to the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Vice-Chair must be a Senate-appointed faculty member. A call was put out for nominations, but none were received. Penny Powers agreed to be Vice-Chair until the amended Terms of Reference are approved by the Steering Committee of Senate.

P. Powers

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – TOM OWEN

Tom gave a verbal report, which included the following points:

- Kaitlin Boyd, the Co-op student that has been working with Tom, is coming to the end of her placement. Tom officially thanked Kaitlin for all her hard work and dedication.
- TRU will have a limited number of parking spaces available to people who are carpooling (driving to work with more than one person), starting January 1st 2010.
- Mixed recycling will be starting in February or March 2010 on campus, including plastics. We still need to work out some of the logistics. We would like to include paper towels from the washrooms with the recycling, but we would need to work out contamination issues first. TRU tried to switch over to air dryers some time ago, and the initiative was met with resistance; staff still want the option to use paper towels.

We use the highest recycled paper content that we can get. Brian has data on energy use of air dryers versus the cost of producing paper towels, and will provide that to the committee. Noise emitted by air dryers could be an issue, but solutions could be engineered.

B. Christianson

- Waste greens from culinary arts is being sent to a local animal farm; we will expand this program to food waste from the CAC in future.
- The McGill Composting site is currently closed but it will be opening again and, when it does, we will utilize their services.
- Campus Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) –Tom is expecting a report from Adam in the next couple of weeks. The ecological footprint analysis plan will also be available.
- Dead batteries and unwanted electronics equipment can be taken to the Independence Centre for safe disposal. This initiative needs to be publicized.
- Tom’s next Co-op student may come from marketing background; this would be helpful in promoting initiatives.
- The 100-mile Reward Lunch for the Environmental Golf Tournament was a great success.
- Culinary Arts – the Sustainable Seafood Lunch was very successful. However, we need to work with Culinary Arts going forward, on their menu choices (Pacific salmon vs. Atlantic salmon). We should display the student posters from that day around campus.
- \$500,000 Ministry funding – it was agreed that it is more appropriate to house this budget in an operating unit rather than with the Environmental Advisory Committee. \$125,000 has already been spent, leaving a balance of \$375,000. The Committee will still have input into how the money is spent, but by housing it in an operating unit, it should make the process for approval of funds less cumbersome. It was agreed to house the funds in Tom Owen’s operating unit. The funds will probably be used for an energy-related project; Tom is waiting to receive proposals, and agree to keep the EAC fully informed as funds are spent.

On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to house these funds in the Director, Environment and Sustainability’s operating unit.

T. Owen

EAC TERMS OF REFERENCE/MEMBERSHIP

<http://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/eac/composition.html>

Discussion took place around committee membership. The following was agreed:

- Move the committee’s business to a higher level (strategy/planning level).
- Amend the Terms of Reference as follows:
 - Make Tom Owen’s seat a regular, voting position
 - Add a seat for a Council of Deans representative
 - Only report to Senate and the Board of Governors once a year, rather than twice
 - Anyone from the committee to be eligible to chair.

Judith and Shirley to amend the Terms of Reference, circulate to EAC, and then submit to Senate and the Board for approval.

J. Murray/
S. Jackson

WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE/MEMBERSHIP:

The following documents were reviewed:

- Membership list
- Public Relations Working Group
- Policy Working Group
- Air Quality Working Group
- Research Working Group

Tom suggested that the Committee review the CSAP document, to see whether the Working Groups fit into the plan. Tom will draft Terms of Reference for the three committees (Natura, Built, Social and Cultural) for the next meeting. Each of these three committees is responsible for drafting policy; Tom to follow up (policy working group).

T. Owen

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Robin reported that the City of Kamloops is developing an Airshed Management Plan, which it is anticipated will be completed by 2012. In developing the plan, the City of Kamloops is seeking community engagement with stakeholder groups, including TRU. The City of Kamloops is putting together a committee for this, and TRU will be offered an opportunity to participate. TRU would have to go through a process to appoint somebody to that committee, and it may not necessarily be an EAC member. We could offer to set up an intellectual resource.

Robin offered to conduct research on what's being done in other cities, and what role other universities are taking (especially institutions that are making positive changes).

R. Reid

SPEAKER SERIES

Tom explained that \$10,000 has been earmarked to put together a speaker series by the end of March 2010. We are looking to partner with other bodies for funding. After discussion, the following speakers were suggested:

- Raffi
- Peter Victor
- Ken Ogilvie
- James Hunt

It was agreed to turn the budget for the Speaker Series over to Tom Owen. Tom will put together a list of speakers in priority order, and bring back to the next meeting. Tom is also trying to get ongoing funding for this project.

On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to house these funds in the Director, Environment and Sustainability's operating unit.

T. Owen

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

The Award draft guidelines were reviewed. It was agreed that nominations should be forwarded to Shirley Jackson. Tom will provide the documentation at the next meeting

On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the Environmental Award guidelines as amended.

T. Owen

IDLING POLICY – MICHELLE HARRISON

This policy is not limited to idling, but is more of a TRU vehicle policy.

On motion duly made it was RESOLVED to approve the Vehicle Policy as presented.

J. Murray

Judith will take the policy forward to the appropriate committee. If anyone has any other policy amendments, please send them to Judith who will submit them through the proper channels.

J. Murray

DRAFT ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY – TOM OWEN

Deferred to January.

Next agenda

"REPORTS" SECTION OF WEBSITE

http://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/eac/eac_reports.html - JONATHAN VAN HAMME

Shirley to get a copy of the Bottled Water Report and add it to the relevant web page.

S. Jackson

Reports will be a future agenda item.

Next agenda

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tom reported that all water bottle filling stations are in place and operational now, except for one in the CAC. We need to conduct a Public Relations exercise around this. Tom will get an update from Gerard on water bottles being sold. Item to come back as "Business Arising" at the next meeting.

Next agenda

TDM – transportation demand management plan – deferred to next meeting.

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