

Green University Coordinating Committee

March 26, 2008

Meeting Notes

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Conference Centre 6-305

Attendees:

Dr. Annie Booth, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Rob van Adrichem, Director, Media and Public Relations
Mark Thompson, Molecular Genetic Support Specialist and Graduate Student (CUPE rep)
Dr. Arthur Fredeen, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Dr. Jim Randall, Acting Provost
Shelley Rennick, Director, Facilities Management
Dr. Gordon Martel, Acting Dean, College of Arts, Social and Health Sciences
Dr. Don Cozzetto, President and Vice-Chancellor
Danielle Smyth, Graduate Student
Marissa Balahura, PIRG
Dr. Bill McGill, Dean, College of Science and Management

Regrets:

Dr. Ron Thring, Vice-Provost, Research and Graduate Programs
Dr. Balbinder Deo, Assistant Professor, Business
Colleen Smith, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Ian Hartley, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs
Godfrey Medhurst, Director, Campus Planning and Capital Projects
Dr. Ken Wilkening, Associate Professor, International Studies
Allan Berezny, Executive Director, University Advancement

Guest: Kyle Aben

Recorder: R. van Adrichem, Office of Communications

1. Approval of Agenda

- Addition of Item #8.1 Update re. AASHE

2. “Greenhouse Gas Audit of UNBC”

- UNBC graduate, Kyle Aben, spoke to the group about conducting a greenhouse gas inventory. He was initially invited to speak to the Green University Coordinating Committee regarding an offer to conduct a free GHG audit of UNBC; he has had to withdraw this offer due to the fact his company has been acquired by a large company.
- Mr. Aben reported that ISO 14064 is the international standard for third-party certification and that a number of BC post-secondary institutions are planning to undertake an audit. He reported that he is one of only eight people in western Canada certified to do ISO-based GHG assessments.

3. Approval of February 11, 2008 minutes

- Moved by G. Martel, seconded by M. Thompson – approved.

4. Business Arising

4.1 BC Hydro Energy Management Update

- S. Rennick advised that a group of University administrators met recently with BC Hydro to assess the University's suitability as a host site for a BC Hydro-funded Energy Manager.
- S. Rennick reported that the meeting was positive and expects to hear a funding decision from Hydro by the end of April.

4.2 Green University Coordinator Position Update

- J. Randall reported that he had developed a job description for a Research Project Officer to serve as the Green University Coordinator for a 6-month term. The deadline for internal applicants was April 7.
- J. Randall welcomed Committee members to serve on the selection committee.

4.3 Implementation of Bioenergy on Campus Update

- R. van Adrichem advised members of developments that had been occurring with respect to the establishment of UNBC as a showpiece for bioenergy. He reported that the University had received two proposals as a result of its recent call for expressions of interest related to alternative energy. Both of these used biomass as the fuel source. The University had since submitted two proposals for provincial funding related to the addition of a biomass gasification system on campus.
- A. Fredeen inquired as to projected emission levels. R. van Adrichem responded that the information was still being prepared by Nexterra and that emissions would be determined by the scale of the facility being proposed for UNBC. Nevertheless, emissions are projected to be less than a standard biomass combustion facility.
- A. Booth added that there are opportunities for partnership with the City of Prince George, given the high level of concern expressed in the city about a proposed community energy system.
- D. Cozzetto indicated that his meetings with Nexterra have revealed opportunities to leverage the system for power generation in the future, serve as a living lab for faculty and graduate students.
- J. Randall added that gasification is more leading technology, a factor important in UNBC's potential success in receiving government

5. New Business

Green Day Update

- A. Fredeen thanked the Committee for its support of Green Day, suggesting that the students did a great job and learned a lot about putting on events.
- D. Cozzetto commended the students for doing such a great job.

<p>ACTION D. Cozzetto to sign a letter of congratulations to the students who organized Green Day. A. Fredeen to provide names to A. Rushton.</p>
--

6. Campus progress towards Sustainability and Public Awareness

- A. Booth suggested that the Green University Committee needs to play a more active role on campus in responding to the many concerns and suggestions she receives that would make UNBC more green. She suggested that a 5-10 year sustainability plan/strategy should be developed, which would identify what's important, incentives, and milestones for assessing progress.
- B. McGill compared the current state of green initiatives at UNBC to the "weedy annual stage" of ecosystem progression. Too much policy, too soon, could stifle creativity and a natural progression of ideas.
- A. Booth replied that there is currently the lack of a structure for members of the University community to provide input and get information.

7. PGPIRG Board of Directors position on the com[ost site

M. Balahura presented a memo from the PGPIR Board confirming its authority over the on-campus composting program.

8. Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

A. Booth reported that AASHE will be hosting another conference in November in North Carolina. The University had previously attended an AASHE conference at Ball State. A. Booth added that AASHE is currently seeking proposals and attendees and she suggested that it would be worthwhile for the University to send a delegate(s).

ACTION Committee members to provide information on conferences and associations in an effort to assess value for the University.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2008, Details to be provided by A. Rushton.