

Green University Planning Committee

July 6, 2007

Meeting Notes

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Conference Centre 6-305

Attendees:

Dr. Don Cozzetto, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Howard Brunt, Provost
Dr. Ron Thring, Vice-Provost, Research and Graduate Programs
Dr. Jim Randall, Dean, College of Arts, Social and Health Sciences
Dr. Bill McGill, Dean, College of Science and Management
Shelley Rennick, Director, Facilities Management
Dr. Ian Hartley, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
Dr. Annie Booth, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Dr. Arthur Fredeen, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Rob van Adrichem, Director, Communications and Public Relations

Regrets:

Godfrey Medhurst, Director, Planning and Capital Projects
Colleen Smith, Chief Financial Officer
Davida Stafford, Advancement Officer
Jennifer Meade, Advancement Officer

Recorder: Sandra Earle, Office of Communications and Public Relations

1. Approval of Agenda

- Approved

2. Update on Political Meetings

- Don Cozzetto stated that the “Green” project has potential if managed appropriately and commended the Communications Office on the “Canada’s Green University” brochure.
- As determined at the last meeting, Don Cozzetto was to speak with potential funders before any proposals were created.

Meeting with Dick Harris, MP for Cariboo-Prince George

- Given “green” brochures for BC Caucus.
- Thought that UNBC was well positioned to be Canada’s Green University.
- Time is now for these ideas to be presented to Federal Government as they are developing a “green” budget.
- Interested in Item #1 Build a Forest Products and Bioenergy Innovation Centre.

Meeting with Hon. Shirley Bond, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, Hon. Pat Bell, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and Hon. Kevin Krueger, Minister of State for Mining

- Shirley was enthusiastic about the concept, as the provincial government is also developing a “green” budget and is keen to make it happen with provincial government funding.
- Premier Campbell also excited about a “green” university in BC.

- Shirley passed on copies to Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education.
- Shirley is interested in having a competition on campus for high school students called an “Environmental Olympiad” or “Green Games” to take place next May.
- Hoping to have high caliber speakers at the competition such as Al Gore, Arnold Schwarzenegger and/or David Suzuki.

Meeting with Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDI)

- 5M requested of NDI.
- NDI Board was given brochures.
- NDI requested a proposal for Items #1 and #5 along with a detailed budget
- Committee to consider proposal at September meeting.

Meeting with Mayor Colin Kinsley, City of Prince George

- Mayor Kinsley in on board with Canada’s Green University.
- There have been no conversations with the private sector as yet concerning the “Green” project.

Bill McGill suggested that the proposed competition be linked with the Planning Institute of BC’s conference to be held at UNBC in May as the conference has an environmental theme.

There is 15M provincial funding available for 1st Nations initiatives. Annie Booth is contributing “green” information to the proposal for an 8M 1st Nations longhouse on the Prince George campus.

ACTION: Don Cozzetto to follow-up with John Curry on the Planning Institute of BC Conference.

3. Sustainability Audit Research Assistant

- Job description for RA, Danielle Smyth attached to meeting agenda.
- She will focus on sustainability and use material for her thesis.
- Funding will be provided by President’s Office (6,500) and Dean of CSAM (2,000).
- Danielle is a qualified student who has worked on biosolids, and will be open to other areas to evaluate other than those highlighted.
- Half of the sections will be covered in year one and it is anticipated that funding will be available for year two.
- Danielle will be looking at biofuel, geothermal and wind power, to name a few, and the cost recovery component of each.
- It is important to gather baseline data for future proposals.
- BC Hydro is willing to fund a number of initiatives to reduce energy consumption
- It was questioned that since we are claiming UNBC as a “Green” University – How do we compare with other universities and have other universities taken “green” initiatives?
- Annie Booth has information on what other institutions are doing and will provide a link to the committee.
- A “green” strategy can be used to direct where UNBC is going.
- This long-term process should be built into the Master Plan, the ECPE and AVI.
- Carbon footprint – How does this work re balance input vs output considering the extra land at UNBC?

- Can we do an analysis? Aleza Lake, for example, is neutral for carbon.

ACTION: Art Fredeen, Annie Booth and Shelley Rennick to meet re projects funded by BC Hydro.

4. Communications with University Community

- Many people have seen the brochure. How do we build a community around this? How do we get the message out on Canada's Green University? What are the mechanisms for people to get information?
- Purchasing is looking into getting recycling bins.
- The campus is already using green processes.
- Use of website and newspapers for communicating.
- A plan is needed for communications.
- The audit is an excellent tool for information.
- People are asking what is going on and what it means to them
- Include people in the initiative rather than just send information out.
- Focus groups including students, faculty and staff would meet in the fall and would engage in a consultation process and be asked for ideas and contributions. People need to feel actively involved.
- Need to be somewhat cautious as will we have funding after getting everyone interested?
- The University community already has a green element (close to nature, architecture, out-door interests) and this already gives us focus.
- Most research chairs are in environmental areas.
- Need to be seen as inclusive and not just belonging to NRES.
- May be 2 potential problems – 1) not participating, so will oppose, and 2) tell everyone else what to do, but not do yourself.
- Need for people to buy into it.

5. Membership and Role of Committee

- Need to involve more groups to be inclusive.
- Purpose of committee is to provide overall cohesiveness to sustainability of the institution.
- Draft Terms of Reference needed; will bring to group in August.
- Provide funding for student "green" activities (i.e. recycling, car pooling). Some suggestions – provide no interest loans on small micro projects and environmental tax on water bottles.
- Are we making or saving money to go "green"?
- How to fund students and encourage environmental learning at the same time?
- Make contact with other groups and invite them to join.
- Be clear that this is not a research operation but part of a bigger priority for the university.
- Ask those people who are keen on sustainability to participate, not just a representative of a group.

- Need for a timeline as proposals of this nature cannot be completed in a week. The next building or two will put UNBC over the threshold for infrastructure, so “green” processes need to be identified and developed now.
- Annie Booth suggested getting a bank of people together who already have an interest in sustainability and develop a bank of experts now. This could be part of the audit.
- Shelley Rennick stated that there are things that can and cannot be done within the Ring Road. There are only a couple of locations left designated for academic buildings within the Ring Road under the auspices of the Master Plan. If “green” is incorporated, the external and internal plans for the Ring Road will have to be changed in the Master Plan.
- Rob van Adrichem described the “green” website as having 4 components – 1) Teaching 2) Research 3) Campus and 4) Living It! Will pass on the URL To committee members soon for review.
- Art Fredeen suggested an internal peer review of proposals.
- Annie Booth stated that many universities have resources in place to tap in to.
- Bill McGill suggested that we better connect integrate the campus with the environment around it (forest, landscaping) as well as explore options for energy conservation.
- Annie Booth suggested signing and promoting the botanical forest and to recognize our assets and promote them.

ACTION: Rob van Adrichem and Don Cozzetto to draft a Terms of Reference and a Philosophy Statement.

ACTION: Danielle Smyth to create timeline over 5 and 10 years.

6. Attendance at Ball State University Conference

- September 6-8th.
- Funded by President’s Office.
- Attendance by Annie Booth (Academic), Danielle Smyth (Audit) and a person from Facilities (TBD by Shelley Rennick).

Next meeting will be in August

- Terms of Reference will be in place.
- New membership
- Shelley Rennick will pull together a short discussion paper for Item #3 (Explore Wood and Other Green energy Sources for the Campus).

ACTION: Don Cozzetto to contact Sharon Cochran to attend next meeting and incorporate “Green” initiatives in the Master Plan.