

**Green University Planning Committee**

**July 15, 2011**

**MINUTES**

**2:30am-4:00pm**

**6-305**

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**Attendees:**

Arthur Fredeen, Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management  
Daniel Ryan, Dean, College of Science and Management  
Danielle Smyth, Green University Research Project Manager  
David Claus, Energy Manager  
Doug Carter, Capital Projects Manager  
Eileen Bray, Vice President Administration and Finance  
Gail Fondahl, Vice-President Research  
John Young, Dean, College of Arts, Social, and Health Sciences  
Ken Wilkening, Associate Professor, International Studies  
Kyle Aben, PICS  
Leslie Burke, Purchasing Agent  
Mark Dale, Provost (Chair)  
Nadia Nowak, NUGSS  
Sarah Boyd-Noel, PGPIRG  
Trevor Fuson, CUPE

**Regrets:**

Alex Lautensach, Assistant Professor, Education, Terrace Campus  
Cam Bell, NUGSS  
George Iwama, President  
Jessica Madrid, Graduate Student  
Rob van Adrichem, Vice-President External Relations  
Shelley Rennick, Director, Facilities Management

**Recorder:** Danielle Smyth, Sustainability Manager

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1. **Approval of Agenda** – accepted without additions
2. **Approval of Minutes** – May 20; approved

**NEW BUSINESS:**

3. **Green Fund**
  - a) **Subcommittee Recommendations** (action) – K Wilkening

*MOTION:* Green Fund Subcommittee recommends funding the Students' for a Green University Geodesic Dome Project (D Ryan/G Fondahl)

Accepted with the following amendments to the funding conditions:

1. SGU must submit a reworked budget that includes consideration of additional costs not in the originally budget, costs such as construction of a foundation, additional building materials, batteries for the PV system, etc.

2. Facilities must be provided evidence that all appropriate building codes will be met before release of funds.

**b) Update on past projects** (discussion) – D Smyth

- Compost Program: project complete
- Green RA Project: project complete; housing has secured funding to continue the program a second year
- Pincrete Proposal: the proposers have been contacted to determine if there is still interest in pursuing the project.
- Green School of Nursing: funding deferred until October 2011
- Thirsty Moose LED Lighting: lighting will be installed by September
- Wind Energy Feasibility Study: a draft has been submitted and a final report will be available in September
- Compost Planning Workshop: a revised plan and budget (as per the funding conditions) will be presented during the September GUPC meeting.

**4. Sustainability Definition Discussion Paper** (discussion) – K Wilkening, A Fredeen

- A sustainability definition discussion paper was prepared to present to the GUPC that we have a choice between creating a definition or choosing not to.
- The process of defining sustainability could include various means of consultation including focus groups.
- Defining sustainability leads to coherent visions which can lead to action on sustainability
- Various committee members commented that they support adopting a formal definition and highlight benefits for understanding the concept and making a statement as Canada's Green University.
- Many questions were raised on this topic:
  - Would a definition require Senate approval?
  - Would the definition be a GUPC definition or a UNBC definition?
  - What are the implications of having the BOG or Senate or both approve a definition of sustainability?
  - Do we need a definition of sustainability at all?

*MOTION:* To send the topic of defining sustainability to the Sustainability Plan Working Group for further discussion (D Smyth/K Wilkening)

**5. STARS Definitions of Sustainability in Curriculum and Research** (action) – K Wilkening

- The following two definitions were presented.

Definition of **sustainability research**:

Sustainability is a concept that addresses the human relationship to the environment, a relationship that has multiple dimensions. To qualify for inclusion as sustainability research at UNBC, the research must tackle the human relationship to the environment in one or more of its multiple dimensions.

Sustainability research is defined as research that addresses one or more facet of the human relationship to the environment.. Sustainability research seeks to improve human and ecological well-being and such is generally solutions oriented.

Definition of **sustainability in the curriculum**:

Sustainability is a concept that addresses the human relationship to the environment, a relationship that has multiple dimensions. To qualify for inclusion as part of UNBC's sustainability curriculum, a course, program, or training must tackle the human relationship to the environment in one or more of its multiple dimensions.

Sustainability curriculum is defined as courses or programs of study or training that address the combination of human and ecological well-being; specifically, meeting human environmental needs in conjunction with other essential needs (cultural, social, political, economic, spiritual, etc.) in the present and in the future within the constraints of the life support system of planet Earth.

Sustainability curriculum includes sustainability-focused courses and sustainability-related courses.

**Sustainability-focused courses:**

concentrate on the concept of sustainability, including environmental and other of its multiple dimensions, or examine an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens, and, use the term "sustainability," or "sustainable" in a sustainability-connected context in the course title or description.

**Sustainability-related courses:**

incorporate the concept of sustainability as a distinct course element. These courses may or may not use the term "sustainability" or "sustainable" in the course title or description.

- One member expressed concern that STARS will be used to influence curriculum design and commented that a group asking about sustainability courses was followed by branding Canada's Green University
- It was clarified that STARS is about assessing sustainability not about directing curriculum or any other decisions
- The point was raised that the new University Action Plan (2010) states a goal of expanding First Nations content in all programs; this decision was made without faculty consultation.

*MOTION:* To adopt the sustainability in curriculum and sustainability in research definitions as written (D Claus/K Aben)

**6. Green University Strategy Phase 1 (discussion) – D Smyth, K Wilkening, A Fredeen**

- The Green University Strategy Phase 1 expires September 2011
- It was suggested that the committee consider phase 2 or some other format for a sustainability strategy, plan or guiding document.
- Members of the committee made several suggestions and comments:
  - Timelines would provide an easier format
  - Sustainability research and greening how research is done should both be considered
  - It would be very useful to determine milestones and tangible targets
  - Developing a "phase 2" could be facilitated through the Sustainability Plan working group
  - How would the strategy or plan be initiated?
  - What process should be followed?
  - What role will STARS data play in the process?

**7. STARS Update (information) – D Claus, D Smyth, K Aben, K Wilkening**

- STARS submission is complete and will be made publically available on August 20.
- Some of the highlights include:
  - Full points for Energy reduction
  - Minimal points for GHG emissions (Bioenergy was not operational during the reporting timeframe)
  - Full points for Water Conservation
  - Full points for Cleaning Products
- Some of the gaps include:
  - Transportation
  - Food Services
  - Missing baseline for waste reduction
- Other observations:
  - With better documentation our credit will increase

**8. Roundtable** (information) – All members

- Transit Pass Working Group has been created and will be meeting for the first time next week
- The PGPIRG Sustainability Garden is in full bloom and welcomes tours; compost is also for sale at the garden.
- PICS is working on a Carbon Footprint Project in Barkerville which will include research on an energy plan
- Bioenergy has reached >70% offset of natural gas operation; the Pellet System will be shut down for the summer; various lighting upgrades and metering installations are also underway
- There have been a wide range of international visitors to the Bioenergy Plant

Adjournment: 4:00pm