

Green University Planning Committee

April 16, 2009

Meeting Notes

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Conference Centre 6-305

Attendees:

Mark Dale, Provost (Chair)

Annie Booth, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management

Leslie Burke, Buyer

Balbinder Deo, Assistant Professor, Business

Gail Fondahl, Vice-President Research

Arthur Fredeen, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management

Ian Hartley, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs

Bill McGill, Dean, College of Science and Management

Nadia Novak, Students for a Green University & Go Beyond

Shelley Rennick, Director, Facilities Management

Danielle Smyth, Graduate Student

Mark Thompson, Molecular Genetic Support Specialist and CUPE rep

Robert van Adrichem, Vice-President External Relations

John Young, Acting Dean, College of Arts, Social, and Health Sciences

Kyle Aben, PICS Coordinator

Regrets:

Eileen Bray, Vice President Administration and Finance

Gavin Chung, NUGSS

Charles Jago, Interim President

Ken Wilkening, Associate Professor, International Studies

Robyn Ocean, PG PIRG

Recorder: Stacey Linton, Assistant, External Relations

1. Approval of Agenda

- Three additions: # 12 – 14. Green Day, Facilities Issues, Recycling Update
- Approved with additions (B McGill / B Deo)

2. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2009

- Approved (M Thompson / D Smyth)

3. Green Coordinator – Mark Dale

- A Booth said the position was posted as per CUPE rules approx 6-12 months ago, there was one applicant who didn't meet requirements.
- M Dale requested members provide comments to the existing posting, agreed the position should be full-time and continuing.
- A Booth said original position was term to organize for the full position, should be posted external too.
- G Fondahl and A Booth discussed how several organization now have positions of this type and there are many areas where the position has been placed, e.g. in Facilities where the

position is more operational. Need to decide what want the position to do in order to decide where they should be placed, higher level planning won't have authority if position doesn't.

ACTION: Members asked to send comments to Mark Dale regarding changes to the posting of Research Project Officer, Green University.

- R van Adrichem said because there are broad opportunities in this position, from educational/research and public education, should report to Provost because want to have authority when involved with higher level policy.
- S Rennick agreed that majority of everything from looking at equipment to energy planning will be covered by the Energy Manager so good for Green Coordinator to look at university planning.

4. Green Committee Future Structure – Mark Dale

- M Dale commented that these meetings have been chaired by the President, Provost, other members of the committee, perhaps should be the new Green Coordinator? Suggested options of equal representation, fully open to public, part of senate, chaired by someone new, or any other ideas that people may think is appropriate.

ACTION: Members asked to consider the structure of the Green Committee and provide comments to Mark Dale by one week before the next meeting.

- J Young commented that until the parking increase our committee hasn't had full-spread impact on the UNBC community, if we are to be responsive to all then might want reps.
- B McGill said people tended to disregard the committee until this impact, maybe it will give people a reason to want to be on the committee
- M Thompson agreed the fee has raised the committee's profile, we are not liked, two parts (1) organizational body to coordinate, and (2) sustainability – needs community concept where everyone plays a role.
- M Dale offered committee may want to have voted representatives.
- A Booth said comments that come to committee are reported on but problem may be lack of communication back to the people with those comments. The problem with democracy of election due to politics rather than those who agree to serve because interested/have expertise, perhaps ½ appointed and ½ elected, for all its stops and starts this committee has moved forward because have people who are interested.
- G Fondahl agreed, said good to have Deans here and have the Provost as chair because shows importance.
- R van Adrichem commented that committee has done well with student representation, students are the most affected so need to ensure this continues.
- M Thompson said people want to be empowered, have different levels of empowerment – student leadership, sustainable café as per new president's science café, build communities within groups.
- J Young commented that there was a referendum for the U-Pass but for the parking fee this was not done.
- B McGill asked for the history.
- M Dale reviewed that the President asked for a recommendation, sub-committee created a report which included Green Day items, the report went back to the President immediately due to the short time-frame for the Budget.

- B Deo said what is important is keenness and interest, an election might get people who are interested but not appointed. M Dale agreed stating his concern regarding people elected with personal agendas.
- G Fondahl asked about terms. A Booth responded there are no terms currently because VPs and Deans are there based on their position, representatives of staff and faculty could have terms that end because representing their constituencies.
- N Novak agreed with having one open session per semester, still need someone championing communications to the university community, parking fee concerns may be caused by lack of education.
- M Thompson asked about setting a regularly scheduled meeting. M Dale replied yes but need one asap because of the Green Coordinator.

5. Carbon Neutral Action Report – Eileen Bray

- B McGill commented that the report was hard to read. S Rennick responded that it was done this way to match specifications from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Capital Branch, and acknowledged the 19 character max was difficult.
- K Aben said we need a summary that is more easily readable, volunteered to create such a summary.
- D Smyth and N Novak asked how “complete” and “in progress” are defined. S Rennick responded “complete” is what has been fully done, “in progress” is what the university is working on within budgetary constraints.
- A Booth asked if there were plans to complete the black sections. S Rennick replied this is a working document for future/ongoing projects, must be updated annually.
- R van Adrichem asked (re pg 4 bioenergy) what proportion of our campus uses fossil vs renewable fuels. Where we are in ranking could make a difference for our priorities. S Rennick replied that we can ask what various universities operate on and how much they use – suggested getting a list of 5 key questions.
- K Aben wondered what the government is using this for, what are the long-terms plans. S Rennick noted the smart tools for reporting is not up yet.
- B Deo said ultimately we need to know where we stand and where we want to go. S Rennick replied that built into the projects is to reduce consumption.

6. Generating Revenue for a UNBC Green Fund – Mark Dale

- Conversation lead right into Item 7

7. Parking Fee Increase Comments – Ken Wilkening / Mark Dale

- A Booth was concerned that people see Green Fund as a blank box, we haven’t explained that there were many proposals for where green money would come from and parking was the one decided.
- M Thompson asked if everyone has read the final document. Suggested that it be approved by the committee then placed online, since most complaints are addressed in the document. Could do this in response to the complaints.
- J Young said one complaint was about the lack of a bus shelter, could show that funds are going to address that.
- R van Adrichem said we all need to play a greater role in communication, the Coordinator can become the conduit to funnel communications. Need to show legitimacy by investing in things that people can see – recycling, bioenergy, recycled paper stock. B McGill noted one way to legitimacy is through the coordinator, other way is to have people submit proposals to use green funds.

- J Young reminded everyone that the parking fee is done, it is in the budget and was approved by the Board.

MOTION: That the committee members accept the report as submitted to the President. (A Booth/ B McGill) CARRIED

ACTION: R van Adrichem to place document online with the proviso that it is open for additions.

ACTION: M Dale to draft email response to complaints then circulate.

- Discussion regarding Green Coordinator – J Young expressed concern regarding hiring someone without knowing how much money generating, B McGill said it's important that money be left for proposals.

MOTION: To hire a Green Coordinator, pending funding and further details, with the understanding that the salary is not to exceed 2/3 of the UNBC Green Fund, so that at least 1/3 is available to fund proposals from the community. (A Fredeen/A Booth) CARRIED

8. PICS-UNBC Campus Coordinator (Kyle Aben) – Ken Wilkening

- K Aben introduced himself – background in international studies, focus on forestry, consultant, excited to here

9. PICS Campus Coordinator as a Member of the Green Committee – Ken Wilkening

MOTION: To accept the PICS-UNBC Campus Coordinator, Kyle Aben, as a member of the Green University Committee. (G Fondahl/M Thompson) CARRIED

10. PICS Report as a Standing Item – Ken Wilkening

- Discussion tabled until next meeting

11. Adopt Green Strategy – Ken Wilkening

- Discussion tabled until next meeting

12. Green Day

- R van Adrichem received the report from Jamie on green site, summarized green day - over 500 people voted, lowest group in attendance was faculty, #1 voted on item was recycling, #2 item was sustainable transportation, event success was due to student involvement, thank you to all for your work

13. Facilities Issues

- Discussion tabled until next meeting

14. Recycling Update

- L Burke said the recycling bins at the Northern Sports Centre and residences are for all to use, plus there are 10 interior stations to arrive any day, expensive, funded by parking reserve

15. Other

- M Thompson asked if we are doing anything for Earth Day. L Burke suggested waiting until April 22 to put out the bins. R van Adrichem said he would put this on the home page.