

Green University Planning Committee

September 24, 2007

Meeting Notes

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Conference Centre 6-307

Attendees:

Dr. Don Cozzetto, President and Vice-Chancellor
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
Dr. Annie Booth, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Rob van Adrichem, Director, Communications and Public Relations
Dr. Balbinder Deo, Assistant Professor, Business
Dr. Gordon Martel, Professor, History Program
Mark Thompson, Molecular Genetic Support Specialist and Graduate Student
Dr. Ken Wilkening, Associate Professor, International Studies
Godfrey Medhurst, Director, Planning and Capital Projects
Shelley Rennick, Director, Facilities Management
Dr. Arthur Fredeen, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Danielle Smyth, Graduate Student
Marissa Balahura, PIRG

Regrets:

Colleen Smith, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Ian Hartley, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

Recorder: Sandra Earle, Office of Communications and Public Relations

1. Approval of Agenda

- Approved

2. Approval of August 23, 2007 minutes

- Approved

3. Review revised draft Terms of Reference

- Dr. Cozzetto presented a proposed organizational chart for “green” committee recognizing that a Terms of Reference could not be created until an agreed upon structure was in place. The chart indicated one main committee with 3 committees branching off (Green Research, Teaching Green and Living Green).
- Discussion ensued including the following comments:
 - Split maybe premature, fearing loss of integration.
 - A full-time position is needed to ensure integration and coordination.
 - The current Coordinating Committee is made up of a large group from diverse backgrounds.
 - Ad Hoc committees could be struck to bring recommendations to the Coordinating Committee.
 - Three separate interests would be represented in 3 groups to come back with specific purposes to main committee.
 - Other universities have been looked at and all are different (e.g. bigger, smaller, ahead or behind in sustainability), therefore a model cannot be used.

- There is a need for smaller groups to get things done – what would be the mechanism for exchange of information.
- How do we move forward and not just keep talking?
- Committee members all want to see this work.
- What will motivate groups to keep meeting.
- How does “green” interact with AVI? Needs to be closely attached.
- Support of upper admin is motivation for grassroots to be active.
- Ensure communication is built into structure.
- Suggested to have the Coordinating Committee in the centre of the chart with the 3 other groups feeding into the centre as well as grassroots.
- The Master Plan would fit into the Coordinating Committee.
- 2 people from each sub-committee would represent each group in the Coordinating Committee.
- Sub-groups could have faculty co-chairs.
- “Living Green” group could have a PIRG co-chair with a CFO co-chair.
- Students need to be a major part and be informed and have a major leadership role in “Living Green”.

ACTION: Dr. Cozzetto and Rob van Adrichem to revise organizational chart to reflect above comments.

4. Facilities Report on Objective #3 (Explore wood and other energy sources for the campus)

- Refer to the Proposal for approach to “Explore wood and other energy sources for the UNBC Campus(es)” (included in meeting materials).
- The proposal addresses a larger perspective than wood and heating. It incorporates everything that is happening with respect to capital and infrastructure.
- The proposal suggests obtaining a consultant to determine what we have, revising the infrastructure within the parameters of the Master Plan, and implementing sustainability where possible with current projects.
- There have been discussions with the City with respect to infrastructure.
- The proposal is impossible to implement without additional resources.
- Comments, questions, suggestions on the proposal go to Shelley.

ACTION: Jim Randall and Shelley Rennick to meet re proposal.

5. Ball State Conference Update

- Danielle Smyth (Grad Student and Research Assistant) and Doug Carter (Chief Engineer, Facilities) attended the conference from September 6-8.
- Sustainability coordinators from different institutions made up the majority of the 350 attendees which also represented facilities, industry and faculty.
- There is no “cookie cutter” approach as each university was diverse in size, priorities, funding, and cultures; therefore, sustainability meant something different for each institution.
- A CD of the conference will be put on the “green” website for sharing of the conference information.
- Included in meeting materials are Danielle’s notes from the conference, websites of interest, and ideas for UNBC’s sustainability.
- Options for how to present sustainability to the university community:
 - The green website is a living record of what UNBC is doing.

- Display residence energy consumption
- Hold an energy competition.
- Keep a paper consumption tally on the homepage.
- Link our green website with the City's green website.
- Danielle could go to classes for a few minutes to promote green.
- The definition of "sustainability" was questioned as to how it is defined in the Master Plan. The definition needs to have a sense of actively moving forward.

ACTION: Rob van Adrichem to put conference CD on UNBC website.

6. Green Games High School Environmental Competition

- Competition would be held in May with teams from around the Province.
- UNBC would host and the BC Gov would do the promo.
- Office of Recruitment is not able to facilitate because of lack of resources.
- What can we do with no resources?
- What can we do with resources?
- Could it be done through the Science Fair? Perhaps have a green division with special prizes.
- Engage the MEd program to run the competition as a project.

7. UNBC Bookstore Green Promotion

- Over 1,000 green bags were sold in less than a week.
- More will be ordered for January semester.

8. Sustainable Energy Association Local Chapter Update

- The Sustainable Energy Association is a province wide organization that promotes sustainable energy in the province.

9. Public Consultation Process

- Focus groups to be created on Green Research, Teaching Green, and Living Green during Oct and Nov.
- Have a "Green Day" in January where results of focus groups would be announced.
- A mission statement to be composed after all focus groups have given input.
- The Green Committee structure, a definition of sustainability, and a mission statement need to be in place by the Green day.

ACTION: Annie Booth to organize focus groups.

10. Sustainability Coordinator Position

- A full-time coordinator is needed to provide support for all committees.

ACTION: Dr. Cozzetto to work with Dr. Randall to consider appropriate allocation of resources.

11. Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Membership

ACTION: Ken Wilkening to determine costs of UNBC membership identify membership benefits.

12. Recognizing Green Leadership among faculty, staff, and students

- Discussion included:
 - Having 2 environmental competitions for students and staff similar to the BC Hydro competition.
 - Add an award for Green Leadership to the annual roster of UNBC Employee Awards.
 - Student's winner of competition to be announced at convocation.
 - Announce competition at "Green Day" in Winter Semester 2008.

ACTION: Rob van Adrichem and Don Cozzetto to approach Human Resources about adding an employee award category recognizing Green Leadership.