

Green University Planning Committee

April 14, 2010

AGENDA

1:30 to 2:30pm

Senate



Attendees:

Mark Dale, Provost (Chair)

Eileen Bray, Vice President Administration and Finance

Bill McGill, Dean, College of Science and Management

Arthur Fredeen, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management

Ken Wilkening, Associate Professor, International Studies

Dr. Alex Lautensach, Assistant Professor, Education, Terrace Campus

Danielle Smyth, Green University Research Project Manager

Nadia Nowak, NUGSS

Kyle Aben, PICS

Anke Krey, Graduate Student

Trevor Fuson, CUPE

Alexie Stephens, NUGSS

Nick Ehlers, PGPIRG

Regrets:

George Iwama, President

Gail Fondahl, Vice-President Research

Rob van Adrichem, Vice-President External Relations

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

Shelley Rennick, Director, Facilities Management

Absent:

Balbinder Deo, Assistant Professor, Business

Recorder: Danielle Smyth, Green University Research Project Manager

1. Approval of Agenda

- Four additions: # 5-8 – Sustainable Behaviour Literature Review, Sand Cleaning, First Nations Representative, Yellowhead Highway Conference.
- Approved with additions (D. Smyth/A. Stephens)

2. Updates

- **Pre-Move Out Residence “Spring Clean-Out” – TODAY**

- D. Smyth encouraged GUPC members to visit Residence Court to show their support for this green initiative.

- **Sustainability Education Across the Province (SEAP) Workshop – May 16-18, 2010**

- D. Smyth announced that the application deadline for the SEAP workshop was April 16 and encouraged GUPC members, particularly faculty, to apply.

- **Ring Road Study**

- D. Smyth reported that Dr. Margot Mandy and her CHEM 302 class recently completed a study to estimate the reduction of CO2 emissions that would result from returning the Ring Road to its original two-way traffic pattern. The study estimates that this 16.5 tonnes reduction is conservative since travel on the Ring Road in evenings and weekend was not included.
- K. Aben expressed his thoughts that the report was very well done and up to par with a professional study on GHG emissions
- K. Wilkening asked who had the final authority for changing the direction of Ring Road
- E. Bray responded that it would be PEC
- E. Bray also noted that due to construction at the Bioenergy Facility, the direction of Ring Road will need to be temporarily adjusted. This report will serve as additional reasoning for changing to two-way.
- A. Fredeen suggested that if Ring Road became two-way, the GUPC could plant trees on Green Day to represent the amount of carbon sequestered. He can advise the number of trees that would be required.
- E. Bray highlighted that a comprehensive communication strategy will be required should Ring Road become to two-way.

- **Call for Green Fund Proposals**

- D. Smyth reported that the Green Fund Call for Proposals was announced on the website on March 23.
- D. Smyth will work with the Green Fund Sub-Committee to schedule their meetings to review submissions following the May10 deadline.

3. Carbon Neutral Action Report – D. Smyth

- D. Smyth reported that the 2009 Carbon Neutral Action Report will be submitted April 16.
- D. Smyth noted that she had not received any comments on the report, however, comments should be sent by April 15.

4. Research Funding/Sustainability Principles – M. Dale

- M. Dale requested comments/direction on how to proceed from the GUPC on the topic of sustainability ethics related to research funding.
- M. Dale used the example the questions that arise when considering funding from pharmaceutical companies for health research.
- M. Dale also stressed the need to keep the discussion in the broad sense and avoid focusing on any one particular company or organization
- M. Dale suggested that the discussion should be kept to the principles or conditions that a Green University should consider when accepting funds
- M. Dale also suggested creating a working group to discuss the topic and provide recommendations to the Research Policy Committee
- A. Lautensauch volunteered to be on the working group, should one be created.
- A. Fredeen commented that gifts should be included as well
- K. Wilkening recommended that investments/endowments should also be considered in the discussion
- K. Aben commented that excluding organizations or companies will be difficult not to mention excluding an entire industry
- B. McGill advised that the scope of the discussion must be defined and placed within the context of UNBC's fundamental values.

- K. Wilkening commented that being “green” or sustainable is not mentioned explicitly as one of UNBC’s fundamental values but is highlighted as one of the priority areas
- A. Fredeen agreed that UNBC’s core values should reflect sustainability and is not something that the GUPC should be responsible for
- A. Fredeen noted the challenge that he recognizes as a pension trustee – that funds are managed for maximizing profit which may be in conflict with what is sustainable
- K. Wilkening suggests that it would be useful to have more information before forming a working group.

ACTION: D. Smyth to gather some background information about considering sustainability when accepting funds. GUPC members should forward any suggestions to D. Smyth by **May 20**.

5. Sustainable Behaviour Literature Review

- A. Kreye offered to complete a literature review about campaigns to promote sustainable behaviour on university and college campuses
- A. Kreye is prepared to publish the results if appropriate
- D. Smyth offered to assist with this review

6. Sand Cleaning

- K. Wilkening inquired about the sand cleaning schedule for the parking lots and commented that the dust created from the sand is a concern for air quality and human health
- B. McGill noted that although he is not convinced about the health impacts of dust, he is more concerned about the bare area outside of the Teaching and Learning building
- E. Bray noted that sand will be cleared earlier than normal this year and can provide the date to the committee
- E. Bray also confirmed that the area outside the Teaching and Learning building will be landscaped this summer

7. First Nations Representative

- A. Stephens inquired about the status of identifying a First Nations representative for the GUPC
- D. Smyth responded that she has contact the Director of the First Nations Centre for advice on how to proceed

8. TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association Conference – May 1, 2010

- D. Smyth reported that UNBC has been asked to present at the conference on our green initiative
- D. Smyth requested that a committee member present at the conference in her absence and noted that interested members should apply directly to the City of Prince George Organizers (contact to be sent in a later email).

9. PGPIRG Composting

- N. Ehlers expressed concern that the PGPIRG compost program is suffering from very limited capacity which is threatening to continue the program.

- N. Ehlers is dissatisfied with the fact that PGPIRG must submit a proposal to the Green Fund to sustain a program that has proven to benefit the University
- N. Ehlers concluded that without support from the University the compost program will no longer continue
- A. Stephens noted that PGPIRG has observed an increase the amount of compost in recent years – further adding to the need for supporting the program

ACTION: D. Smyth to coordinate a meeting between PGPIRG and the Facilities Department to work towards a resolution on the matter of compost at UNBC.

Adjournment: 2:30pm