

Green University Planning Committee

January 7th, 2010

MINUTES

1:00 to 2:30pm

Senate Chambers

Attendees:

George Iwama, President
Mark Dale, Provost (Chair)
Kyle Aben, PICS
Rob van Adrichem, Vice-President External Relations
Nick Ehlers, PGPIRG
Gail Fondahl, Vice-President Research
Arthur Fredeen, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Bill McGill, Dean, College of Science and Management
Nadia Nowak, NUGSS
Shelley Rennick, Director, Facilities Management
Danielle Smyth, Green University Research Project Manager
Alexie Stephens, goBeyond
Mark Thompson, Molecular Genetic Support Specialist and CUPE member
Ken Wilkening, Associate Professor, International Studies

Regrets:

Eileen Bray, Vice-President Administration and Finance
Balbinder Deo, Assistant Professor, Business
John Young, Acting Dean, College of Arts, Social, and Health Sciences

Recorder: Stacey Linton, Office of External Relations

1. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda approved with additions

2. Green University Research Project Manager – Position Filled

- The GUPC welcomes Danielle Smyth into this role

3. Proposed Terms of Reference

- K. Wilkening created the original document then D. Smyth revised based on last 2 years plus other institutions, includes structure, function, how to move forward
- K. Wilkening questioned the definition of sustainability: UBC Office of Sustainability has description without word too defined to allow for individual interpretation
- M. Thompson pointed out that definition only considers the human aspect, needs to include bio-diversity
- B. McGill said the definition doesn't matter so much as moving forward, vision covers the 3 pillars so use time to get things done
- G. Fondahl asked to whom is the GUPC recommending proposals; M. Dale responded that recommendations go to PEC for financial approval. G. Fondahl also commented that the membership should include a regional representative

- M. Thompson asked if the GUPC is able to make binding resolutions; M. Dale responded that the GUPC sends resolutions to Senate or Board of Governors (as appropriate) with recommendations for approval
- K. Wilkening suggested omitting the definition of sustainability
- R. van Adrichem suggested the definition can fit under Vision bullets; that the definition of the committee – presidential committee – be stated up-front; and that GUPC ask for input to help make decisions on what should be funded
- G. Fondahl said we need clarification of mechanism to get onto committee
- A. Fredeen noted there has been a lapse in when meetings are conducted, need to define frequency, agenda, and minutes
- M. Thompson suggested defining the number of people on the GUPC and sub-committees, perhaps consider how to group people into working groups to move items forward
- G. Iwama asked if before meetings do members solicit information from constituents and after meetings do members report back – trying to gauge what is appropriate representation
- K. Wilkening said its more effective to have all aspects of university at the table
- M. Dale suggested sending further recommendations to D. Smyth

ACTION: D. Smyth to revise Terms of Reference document

4. UNBC Green Strategy

- K. Wilkening said there have been ad-hock and coordinated efforts to get feedback from UNBC community to create this strategy; called this “Phase 1” because creating baseline, e.g. D. Smyth’s thesis on waste management at UNBC. He added it is a big step forward to get Danielle’s position so now have concentrated personnel to focus on green agendas
- M. Dale suggested committee accept strategy report as basis for starting point
- A. Fredeen suggested that the Terms of Reference document mention the strategy i.e. activities governed by documents such as the UNBC Green Strategy
- B. McGill suggested changing wording from accept to receive

MOTION: To receive the document UNBC Strategy, Phase 1 (2009-2011)
R. van Adrichem / K. Wilkening CARRIED

- M. Dale suggested progress reporting on the strategy objectives
- B. McGill extended a hearty thanks to those who put together this document

5. Green Fund Proposal Guidelines

- Drafted by D. Smyth
- G. Fondahl suggested removing the membership list since it is online, and including dates of intake and turn-around timelines
- R. van Adrichem added that guidelines should state where money comes from so people understand that their money is being well used. He suggested that evaluation criteria #10 is key so it should be #1, and said projects funded should also reflect UNBC community priorities i.e. as per what came out of 2009 Green Day
- S. Rennick wondered about evaluation criteria of return on investment – how to evaluate if the project is high priority but no financial return e.g. bike lockers and water fountains – suggested striking this item

- D. Smyth and R. van Adrichem pointed out return on investment could be looked at with regards to reduction of the university's footprint, so suggested rephrasing to include impact and/or return
- M. Thompson requested that budget costs (Item B. iv. a.) outline what recipients can spend funding on e.g. staffing
- R. van Adrichem asked about goals & objectives (Item B. ii.): indication of one-time or recurring, are they eligible to re-apply in future years, should applications be limited to say 3 years
- D. Smyth pointed out this is start-up in nature so need projects that are happening now
- S. Rennick agreed, saying large projects should be split and no guarantee project will be funded every year
- M. Dale suggested the idea that university-wide projects could have the pilot funded here
- M. Thompson suggested categorizing proposals – research, social initiative, etc
- N. Ehlers said GUPC needs systematic way for call for proposals to be announced
- B. McGill said we need to have discussions with Finance regarding how to give out funds

ACTION: D. Smyth to revise Green Fund Proposal Guidelines document as per discussions and discuss Finance rules with E. Bray

6. First Green Fund Proposal

- D. Smyth announced GUPC has received its first proposal

7. Green Day

- D. Smyth announced the date as January 14, 2010. Described day as interactive, with clubs and outside booths, presentations. Details on the web.
- R. van Adrichem said the date came about because of the Natural Resources Forum in PG, which is bringing in many people that we can bring up to visit our Green Day
- K. Wilkening suggested a Green Day working group for future years
- R. van Adrichem proposed an annual timeline

8. Final Remarks from Mark Thompson

- M. Thompson announced this was his last meeting and expressed his thanks to GUPC. For the CUPE Green Committee, said the green bargaining items have been completed and passed to S. Storch. He is happy to see the Terms of Reference. He started at UNBC in 1994 in Wildlife Biology, is excited about bio-diversity, and concerned with homogenization of ecology. He encouraged GUPC to consider ecosystems when making sustainability decisions, to ensure a greater accountability of our natural capital

Adjournment: 2:20 pm