



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 10, 2024

Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, held via MS Teams, at Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C.

| HEADING  | ITEM / DISCUSSION  | ACTION |
|--|--|--------|
| <b>Present (voting):</b>                         | Shelley Church (Co-Chair), Catherine Tatarniuk (Co-Chair), Amie Schellenberg, Baldev Pooni, Hardeep Chahal, Heather MacLeod, James Gordon, Niki Remesz, Poonam Poonam, Robyn Hollas  |        |
| <b>Present (non-voting):</b>                     | Anna Rogers, Natalie Yao   |        |
| <b>Guests:</b>                                   | Peter Tsigaris   |        |
| <b>Regrets (voting):</b>                         | Elder Mike Arnouse, Carmen Love, John Church, Kai Bauman, Pete Arkestyn, Sesathya Nanayakkara, Ted Gottfriedson  |        |
| <b>Regrets (non-voting):</b>                     |  |        |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b>                      | Teams Recorder/Lora Sartori  |        |
| <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>                             | Shelley Church in the Chair. The meeting, being duly constituted for the conduct of business, started at 9:32 a.m.   |        |
| <b>WELCOME &amp; Territorial Acknowledgement</b> | Shelley conducted the Territorial Acknowledgement.   |        |
| <b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>                        | <p>The December 10, 2024 Agenda was unanimously adopted as presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Motion moved by: Niki Remesz</li><li>- Seconder: Baldev Pooni</li></ul> <p>The November 5, 2024 Minutes were adopted as presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Motion Moved by: Hardeep Chahal</li><li>- Seconder: Baldev Pooni</li><li>- Abstained: Heather McLeod</li><li>- Motion passed.</li></ul> |        |

## PRESENTATIONS

- a. "The New Student Environmental Journal" – Peter Tsigaris  
- [Future Earth: A Student Journal on Sustainability and the Environment](#)

This open-access, biannual journal offers students a platform to engage in multidisciplinary discussions on sustainability in topics such as environmental conservation, biodiversity, renewable energy, climate justice and more. We invite undergraduate and graduate students to submit their original, well-researched work for consideration in our inaugural issue, with submissions open until the end of January.

Faculty members are encouraged to identify the best student papers from their courses, and encourage students to submit their work to the journal. We also welcome research presented at the TRU Undergraduate Research Conference, as well as UREAP reports. *Future Earth* accepts a variety of formats, including research articles, creative non-fiction, and Indigenous perspectives on sustainability practices.

- b. "Results from the Recent Survey conducted by undergraduate student Kris Kadaleevnam and Peter Tsigaris regarding the value that TRU employees put on the natural area reserved for outdoor research and teaching." – Peter Tsigaris



Valuation\_of\_Natural\_Areas\_Presentation

Peter presented on the Valuation of Natural Areas Presentation Survey.

- c. "Highlights from the AASHE Conference, 2024" – James Gordon, Natalie Yao, and Anna Rogers

- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in  
Higher Education Conference in Anaheim, California  
October 27 – 29, 2024

**James' top 3 take-aways:**

1. Lia Gomez, Sustainability Analyst, American University Office of Sustainability presented on STARS. She has a system to simplify the entire AASHE reporting process, using Teams and MS Loop.
2. Matthew St. Clair, Chief Sustainability Officer, University of California reporting on the use of carbon offsets for carbon neutrality commitments. Mr. St. Clair was not in favour of this.
3. David Orr, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics emeritus at Oberlin College, was the keynote speaker. Posed questions: What is our cause as a University? What makes life worth living? What do you plan to do with this one life you have? Curriculum is key to infused sustainability. Ready Alexei Navalny's book "Patriot".

**Anna's top aways:**

1. Julie Muir, Associate Director, Zero-Waste Systems at Stanford University – managed Stanford's waste reduction for 25 years. They have achieved STARS Platinum three times.
2. Get access to studies with similar university sizes as TRU. ie: Central collection space works, having uniform, consistent and predictable bin branding helps with source separation.  
As AASHE members we have access to a lot of information which we can pass on to anyone interested.
3. Usable office furniture which cannot be redeployed to the university. Other universities are using surplus sales
4. Value to Government Regulations
5. Struggle of day-to-day source separation and the opportunity of AI – smart bins, phone photos, robotics.

**Natalie's top 3 take aways:**

1. Internal Carbon Pricing – ie UBC implements an internal carbon price \$250/per tonne (co2 equivalent). Want to determine TRU specific carbon price in our next 5-year sustainability plan.
2. Focus on Scope 3 GHG emissions in supply chain. Spoke with the Amazon rep and they advised they are working with Stanford to develop a product list that include embedded emission data.
3. Networking – so we know the best practices in the industry.

**MOTIONS**

- Create a working group to create an official park on the campus mainly behind warehouse/trades. This would align with the UN goal to preserve 30% of terrestrial land and 30% of aquatic area. The Canadian Federal Government has signed on to this goal.

**Motion: To strike an ESAC working group to look into the creation of an official park on the Thompson Rivers University grounds.**

Discussion:

Is there a definition of how we define park? The working group can look at this.

Motion: James Gordon

Seconder: Catherine Tatarniuk

Motion unanimously passed: All in favour

**Action Item:** Lora/James will send an email out to all ESAC members and broader community through The Connect for members.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**      a. None

**NEW BUSINESS**                      a. None

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- a. **Awards Sub-Committee** – James Gordon
  - No Report
- b. **Zero Waste Sub-Committee** – Anna Rogers
  - Zero-Waste Sub-committees are being scheduled for January, March and May.
  - Katelyn Pietrusinski, Coop Education Coordinator will now be involved and interested in green events/zero-waste checklist.
  - Working with Procurement with the new janitorial contract.
  - BOMA Best Waste Audits were conducted - will share at a future meeting.
- c. **Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee** – James Gordon
  - Next meeting is Monday, December 16
- d. **Core Theme Planning Sub-Committee** – James Gordon
  - Core Theme Planning structure is being redeveloped.
- e. **ESAC Biodiversity Committee** – James Gordon and Shelley Church
  - Tom Dickinson is willing to head up a Bird Field School the week of May 12
- f. **TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee** –
  - Meeting December 10 at 1:00.

## MANAGER OF SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS REPORT

### Report by James Gordon, Manager of Sustainability Programs

- Next 5-year Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan is being developed;

- Gwynne Dyer is presenting a lecture on February 19, 2025 speaking about his book “Intervention Earth” about Geo-Engineering.
- Livable Cities and Collaborative Communities Conference February, 2025.
- Successful Repair Café mid-November. Plan to do them 2x year.
- AASHE has a variety of sustainability workshops and webinars. Since TRU is a member of AASHE, any TRU student, staff or faculty member can participate in any of these programs. Webinars are free but workshops charge a fee (with a membership discount and cheaper for students). There's separate registration for each event - so you can register for whichever one (or more) you want to attend. There are also scholarship options.
- SDG Week is now SDG month in March.
- Efficient Personal Heating Device Library Program – getting rid of space heater – highly successful program.

## ENERGY PROJECTS REPORT

### Report by Natalie Yao, Energy Manager

- Solar PV project has been redesigned and currently under Hydro’s review
- Please do the [Energy Management Training](#)

## CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

### Report by Carmen Love

- No Report

## CORRESPONDENCE

None

## NEXT MEETING

January 30, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:57.