Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Meeting Minutes – approved

Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 9:30 am
Location: A2029, Board of Regents room

Members in attendance: Kent Decker, Dennis Waterman, Adam Courage, Paula Corbett, Josh Lepawsky, Kati Szego, John Drover, Dwayne Taverner

Regrets: Craig Stacey, Wolfgang Banzhaf, Jennifer Lokash, Chris Hibbs, Kevin O’Leary, Mano Krishnapillai, Paul Barnable, Abigail Steel, Peter Smith, Peter Earle, Gerri King

Guests: Darrell Miles, students from Geography 2302 class

Welcome (though in absentia):
Peter Smith will be new Project Green representative, replacing Katie Temple
Craig Stacey will be new Facilities Management representative, replacing Joe Carroll

1.0 Call to Order by Kati at 9:35 a.m.

2.0 Approval of Minutes from March 11th, 2008
No edits, errors or omissions
Moved to accept: Josh
Seconded: Paula
March meeting minutes have been approved

3.0 Review of Action Items from March 11th meeting:
ACTION: Shelley to inquire with Darrell regarding update of new residence & LEED
The new consultants, Morris & Hirshman, will present a report to MUN in the coming days. By the June ACS meeting MUN will know what it is doing regarding LEED and certified or silver status.
ACTION: Invite Darrell Miles to June ACS meeting to present results and plans to committee.
CARRIED OVER: Image Services are working on fine-tuning the logo per the ACS suggestions. They are currently short-staffed but should have it completed by May/June.
CARRIED OVER: The Sustainability Office will be in touch with Image Services in the coming month to learn of progress on the new logo.
CARRIED OVER: Shelley will look into the cost and benefit of MUN joining AASHE. Shelley gave a list of costs and benefits to MUN joining AASHE to Darrell Miles. The ACS recommended that MUN join AASHE.
ACTION: The Sustainability Office will follow up with Darrell Miles.
CARRIED OVER: Shelley will inquire regarding the status of new residence & LEED
COMPLETED: Darrell Miles to be invited to June ACS meeting to present results & plans.

CARRIED OVER: Shelley to draft a letter on behalf of ACS to send to Kent Decker and/or Senior Executive Committee to request financial support to hire a person to conduct CSAF or some other assessment to learn the benchmarks or ecological footprint of the MUN St. John’s campus.

A letter was not written and sent. Kent Decker suggests that money could be made available to conduct a sustainability assessment.

CARRIED OVER: The Sustainability Office to follow up with Kent Decker.

ACTION: Will be presented to SEC (Vision, Mission & Mandate)

The Sustainability Charter (Vision, Mission & Mandate) was presented to SEC on Mar.31/08 as well as a brief outline of a Sustainability Framework for MUN which is under development.

REGARDING MAY 6/08 ACS RETREAT:

ACTION: Invite senior administration to attend all or specific part

CARRIED OVER: Sustainability Office will follow up

ACTION: Circulate list of possible agenda items for the day

CARRIED OVER: Sustainability Office will follow up

ACTION: ensure each subcommittee has presentation & discussion room on the agenda

CARRIED OVER: Sustainability Office will follow up

ACTION: find neutral facilitator, possibly from the Harris Centre

Completed: Rob Greenwood from the Harris Centre is booked to facilitate

ACTION: Shelley will circulate a list of events of Sustainability Week to ACS members

*** Retreat was since cancelled

4.0 Ongoing and Current Initiatives Update

Shelley gave a verbal update.

- Sustainability Week was a great success. There were two dozen events in five days and about twenty media hits. Recognition from departments and entities on campus and groups off-campus.

- The beverage container recycling initiative has increased dramatically – recovery rates of beverages containers are up 180% from 06-07 school year to 07-08. This is due to much work and cooperation between Sustainability Office, Facilities Management Custodial Services, Housing and Student Housing Environmental Group, Ever Green Recycling and the Multi Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB).

- Shelley is leaving the Sustainability Coordinator position at MUN a few months earlier than anticipated and there will be a couple of months between her departure and Toby’s return. To provide continuity and momentum with work and initiatives, a summer position is being created to ensure that the office is staffed in the interim and to help give Toby support when she returns.

5.0 Subcommittee Reports
5.1 Paper & Recycling
- a short meeting this month
- decided to speak with HR and Marketing, specifically editor of The Communicator, to promote the paperless pay stub options for employees

5.2 Policies
- a Sustainability Charter (Vision, Mission & Mandate) was presented to the Senior Executive Committee
- The SEC suggest linking a Sustainability Charter and/or Framework to the Strategic Plan

5.3 Buildings
- recommend that MUN join the Canada Green Building Council
- membership to the subcommittee to be expanded to include a representative of the Marine Institute, student body (either campus, undergrad or grad), provincial government

5.4 CSAF – Campus Sustainability Framework
- no change in the past few months
  - subcommittee recommends that MUN conducts a sustainability assessment of the St. John’s campus
- Kent Decker suggested that someone could be hired to conduct such as assessment
- It is suggested that the group re-convene in the Fall to determine if MUN should go with the CSAF (Campus Sustainability Assessment Facility)

6.0 Overview of ACS presentation to Senior Executive Committee:
- Shelley (Sustainability Coordinator), Abigail & Kati (ACS co-chairs) gave a PowerPoint presentation of the accomplishments of the Sustainability Office since the hiring of a Coordinator in January 2007 and the formation of the ACS in May 2007.
- Presentation occurred Mar.31/08, six of eight SEC members were present
- The presentation was about 15 minutes long and another 20+ minutes were left to answer questions and receive comments
- SEC recommended linking the Sustainability Charter (Vision, Mission & Mandate) & Framework to the Strategic Plan.
- SEC was receptive to the idea of carbon offsetting if it was done in-house (at MUN) and benefits were accrued locally (MUN, St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador).
- Acting President Eddy Campbell suggested that a similar presentation be given to the Board of Regents at one of their bi-monthly meetings

7.0 Old Business
Discussion regarding Carbon Offsetting:
- John Drover suggested that the provincial Department of Environment and Conservation may have monies available to help get this initiative started.
- The government is interested in this but needs a proponent to undertake it; the university would be a good fit as a proponent.
- Kent Decker suggested that such as endeavor at MUN may be most possible if done as, and through, a Separately Incorporated Entity of MUN.

7.1 LEED and new construction:
- Some discussion on new construction at MUN and the plan to register for LEED certified status and possibly LEED silver.
- Some discussion of new construction by provincial government and if they have registered or not to LEED certified or silver standard.

8.0 Other
Presentation by Geography 2302 students:
- “Sustainability of the Campus Economy” (PowerPoint & verbal presentation)
- A copy of the report by the class will be given to the Sustainability Office and another copy to the President’s Office.

9.0 Announcements:
Add to agenda for next meeting
- Carbon Offsetting & MUN SIE (Separately Incorporated Entity)
- Environmental Fund (carbon offsetting as one part)
- EHSSI (Environment & Human Systems Sustainability Initiative)
- Goals & Objectives of the Advisory Committee on Sustainability

10.0 Next Meeting
Tuesday, May 13th, 2008, 9:30-11:30, A2029