Minutes -Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Tuesday, December 14, 2010   9:30 am   Location: Beatrice Watts boardroom (IIC2014)

Attendance: Kris Aubrey, Edwin Bezzina (via teleconference), Nancy Burt, Austin Critch (alternate), Peter Earle, Melanie Feltham (Sustainability Office intern), Mano Krishnapillai (via teleconference), Jennifer Lokash, Angela McLoughlin, Clemente Miranda (joined 9:55 a.m.), Shannon O’Dea Dawson (joined 9:50 a.m.), Toby Rowe

Regrets: Kent Decker, Danielle Jeddore, Josh Lepawsky, Arlene McDonald, Meghan McCarthy, Jackson McLean, Kevin O’Leary, James Quinlan, Toby Rivers, Kieran Smith, Dwayne Taverner, Frank Wall, Bob Walsh

Chair: Jennifer Lokash   Minutes: Nancy Burt

1.0 Call to order and welcome: 9:30 am

2.0 Review/Revise Agenda: Add a section under ‘Reports’ for T. Rowe’s updates.

3.0 Approval of minutes: November minutes not approved – no quorum.

4.0 Action items from previous meeting:
Action: M. McCarthy will draft letter in support of sustainable purchasing policies and forward to ACS members for input prior to sending to K. Decker. Carried forward.  
Action: S. O’Dea Dawson to check on the possibility of having the screens in kiosks throughout campus turned off overnight and on holidays. Carried forward.  
Action: T. Rowe to set up meeting with Kent Decker to review ToR for overarching committee. Completed.  
Action: T. Rowe to check on status of printers and photocopiers at library to see if they are double-sided. Carried Forward.  
Action: T. Rowe to send E. Bezzina a copy of the St. John’s campus community garden proposal. Carried Forward.  

Future Action Items
Action: T. Rowe to contact other departments to determine if there is any interest in participating in Green Report Card. Carried forward until January 2011.  
Action: K. O’Leary to contact G. Jones re giving a presentation on wind power and possible reductions on MUN hydro bills. Carried forward to Fall 2011 semester.  
Action: T. Rowe to send revised ToR document (with MISU added) via e-mail to group for input. Carried forward. Document has gone to Kent Decker and will be distributed once his comments received.

5.0 Updates/Actions
a) Purchasing policy: Bruce Gorman (purchasing policy working group) contacted the student unions and sustainability office to take part in consultation in January and has requested written submissions prior to meeting. Any member with suggestions or input should forward to T. Rowe in the next week and once these are compiled, she’ll send the document to all members. K. Aubrey suggested focusing on the larger, potentially higher impact purchases like Energy Star rated computers instead of paper use. T. Rowe suggested not using actual names or logos but to use wording such as “meets current sustainability standards” to allow for changes in the standards that happen regularly.  
Action: T. Rowe to distribute draft document on purchasing policy once comments received from ACS members.

b) Community Garden: T. Rowe updated that the management committee for the community garden has been chosen. J. Quinlan is the chair and T. Rowe and Kim Kelly are ex-officio members. Rodolphe Devillers (Geography) will provide advice to committee since he has been key in the garden’s creation. The garden is physically ready for June 2011 planting other than the wheelchair access. E. Bezzina asked about any hurdles that had to be overcome during the set-up process. T. Rowe mentioned settling on a location and getting approval from Pippy Park. 

6.0 Reports
a) Paper and Recycling Subcommittee: No update.
b) Sustainable Infrastructure Subcommittee: T. Rowe mentioned that we should acknowledge our successes and progress on campus: the first letter to request LEED status for the new residence on the St. John’s campus was sent approximately three years ago and initially it seemed that the building would not be registered with LEED due to budget concerns and lack of a champion in Facilities Management. Now, the new residence (and Faculty of Medicine building) has been registered with LEED with the goal of LEED silver and the assistant director of capital is a strong supporter. K. Aubrey suggested the ACS draft a similar letter to request that any new development on campus be built to LEED standards.

Action: K. Aubrey to draft a letter requesting that any new development on campus be built to LEED standards

c) Policies Subcommittee: T. Rowe stated that the policies subcommittee discussed the purchasing policy (see 5.0 a) and that a sustainability fund is currently being developed. K. O'Leary informed the committee that CUPE is interested in donating for the fund start-up. The sub-committee is also looking into the possibility of this fund being included in the DARE Campaign where contributors can specify if they want their donation go to the sustainability fund. T. Rowe is waiting to hear from Alumni Affairs concerning existence of any similar funds that could provide a template, advice in set-up.

d) Marine Institute Sustainability Committee: No update.

e) Vice-President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (Grenfell Campus): E. Bezzina reported that the name of the committee has been changed to reflect the creation of a VP position at Grenfell. The main project is composting and the total cost of this project is approximately $185,000. They have confirmed $100,000 from the MMSB and have applied to ACOA for the remaining $85,000. The City of Corner Brook will help with the logistics. The committee is also looking into getting a student to work on a carbon analysis next term and possibly a waste audit. E. Bezzina requested input on having all copiers at Grenfell defaulted to print on both sides. T. Rowe explained that when this initiative was started on the St. John’s campus, departments were given the choice whether to have their copiers switched from single-sided copies to double, or not, and many chose not to. She suggested that it would be a better idea to just switch the copiers to double-sided instead of making this initiative voluntary. T. Rowe is researching the next contract for photocopiers supplied to MUN and hopes to have double-sided printing set as a default in the next contract.

f) GSU: No update.

h) Project Green: No update.

i) C & C: A. McLoughlin stated that C & C has set up a Sustainability Committee and that they’ve been working on a page of IT-related green tips to go on their website. Once completed and uploaded, N. Burt will link to this page from the Sustainability Office website. T. Rowe requested she be invited to their next committee meeting so she can run some action plan items past them.

j) Sustainability Office: T. Rowe stated that the Sustainability Office has received approval for $14,000 from the MMSB/Harris Centre Waste Management Research Fund to complete a waste audit for the St. John’s campus beginning in April 2011. T. Rowe also met with Kent Budden and Wayne Rose to discuss purchasing 16 three-stream waste bins to be placed in the UC. T. Rowe and K. Budden also met to discuss a composting project at the dining hall that MMSB has shown interest in supporting. T. Rowe informed the ACS that initial transportation survey results should be ready before the Christmas break.

7.0 New Business

a) Food service provider contract: T. Rowe requested members send her any problems or concerns with the food service provider on campus so she can compile and suggest changes to the next tender call. There is likely to be a meeting about this early in 2011.

b) The Muse article on water pledge: T. Rowe outlined a story by Zaren White that ran in The Muse with the heading ‘MUN's bottled water ban should be a policy, not a pledge’. For this story, Z. White interviewed M. McCarthy who was quoted ‘the university has taken no steps to reduce the sale of bottled water on campus’. T. Rowe commented that there has been a significant reduction in bottled water use at events and that there was little positive in the article. As well, she wondered whether MUNSU is taking steps to eliminate the sale of water in vending machines in the UC which is managed separately from the rest of campus. T. Rowe was sent an email by Z. White on Friday afternoon with an immediate deadline to contribute to the article, and did not see the email until it was too late to provide input. T. Rowe requested input from the committee as to whether the ACS should address this story. No decision was made.

8.0 Events/Announcements: No events or announcements.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2011.