Minutes - Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011  9:30 am  Location: Beatrice Watts boardroom (IIC2014)


Chair: Jennifer Lokash  Minutes: Nancy Burt

1.0 Call to order and welcome: 9:30 am

2.0 Review/Revise Agenda: Add UMAC under ‘Reports’.

3.0 Approval of minutes: January 2011 minutes approved – B. Walsh / M. McCarthy

4.0 Action items from previous meeting:

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 check on status of printers and photocopiers at library to see if they are double-sided. Carried forward. Action: J. Lokash will send an e-mail to J. Carroll at the library to request this information.
Action: T. Rowe to contact other departments to determine if there is any interest in participating in Green Report Card. Carried forward.
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 are received.
Action: K. Aubrey to draft a letter requesting that any new development on campus be built to LEED standards. Carried forward.
Action: N. Burt to check with T. Rowe to see if waste audit must be completed by a grad student. Completed. T. Rowe confirmed that it must be a graduate student.
Action: E. Bezzina will send composter information and contact name to J. McLean. Carried forward.
Action: N. Burt to link from Sustainability Office website to C & C green IT tips when uploaded. Carried forward.
Action: A. McLoughlin to invite T. Rowe to next meeting of C&C committee. Completed.
Action: D. Taverner volunteered to contact Chartwell’s for stats. Carried forward.
Action: M. McCarthy to draft a letter to UMAC requesting the suppliers reduce the bottled water in vending machines in the UC. Completed. See 6.0 Reports – UMAC.
Action: B. Walsh to speak with P. Smith of Campus Enforcement and Patrol re: opting out of receiving a booklet when purchasing a parking permit. Completed. CEP is not interested at this time because all rules and regulations must be provided at the time parking permits are purchased or parking tickets can be challenged.
Action: T. Rowe to send transportation survey results to ACS members. Carried forward.

Future Action Items
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.

5.0 Updates/Actions
a) Committee structure: The committee is waiting on input from K. Decker regarding the structure of the committee.
b) Purchasing policy: M. McCarthy reported that a letter was sent on Feb. 2 to the purchasing policy working group on behalf of student unions and the ACS. The letter outlined what was discussed in a two and a half hour meeting with the working group, M. McCarthy, T. Rowe and Becky Graham (GSU sustainability co-ordinator). The working group was positive and receptive to the suggestions of the ACS, but have budget concerns. M. McCarthy requested a draft of their
final document prior to public consultations. J. Lokash thanked the members of the Policies Subcommittee for their work on this.

c) Waste Audit: N. Burt provided update on mini waste audit to be held in The Loft on March 8 during Sustainability Days (March 8 to 10). N. Burt also provided update on full waste audit planned over the next year to research what is not being recycled that could be, what can’t be recycled at MUN at this time, and will also measure food wastage for potential composting. Jenn Broadbridge, a geography graduate student, is the audit coordinator and the mini audit is project for a Geography course. The class is currently figuring out the methodology for the audit and will test it at the mini audit. C. Miranda offered his assistance if needed. B. Walsh stated that consultants were hired in March of 2010 to complete a Waste Management Strategy Report that is available for information if needed.

d) Baseline Inventory: M. Feltham stated that she has received approval to look over travel documents to complete the travel section of the baseline inventory. Initial report should be completed by Feb. 18, 2011. J. Lokash announced that M. Feltham has resigned from her position as Science Horizons Intern in the Sustainability Office as of Feb. 17, 2011.

e) Sustainability Fund: J. Lokash provided update on meeting that T. Rowe had with Alumni Affairs regarding a Sustainability Fund. Any promotion can include information about the Sustainability Fund, but can’t specifically request donations. A discussion ensued about the possibility of setting up a subcommittee to develop the Terms of Reference for the Sustainability Fund and also to set up a FOAPAL for donations. The decision was made to send back to the Policies Subcommittee to elect a committee to do this.

6.0 Reports

a) Paper and Recycling Subcommittee: No update (no meeting).
b) Sustainable Infrastructure Subcommittee: No update (no meeting).
c) Policies Subcommittee: No update (no meeting).
d) Marine Institute Sustainability Committee: A. McDonald stated that the committee will now be meeting every two months as opposed to monthly. The committee has been meeting now for two years, so they’re recruiting new members to replace those at the end of their term. They have formed a carpooling subcommittee to deal with parking issues, but A. McDonald is not sure if they’ve met as of yet. They are looking into a community garden at MI, but this may possibly be shelved for the time being because any free land in the area will be used for parking or building expansions. Jason Dearing will be bringing Youth Conferences focusing on sustainability to schools. Jason Dearing and Mary Pippy will be attending the MMSB luncheon on Feb. 16. The luncheon is called “Waste not, want not: Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility”.

e) Vice-President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (Grenfell Campus): E. Bezzina stated that Bob Scott (Environmental Science) is the new chair of the Grenfell committee and that Sharepoint is currently being set up for use by the committee. They are also drafting a proposal for a community garden in conjunction with the Western Environmental Centre. He thanked T. Rowe who forwarded the St. John’s campus community garden proposal as a guide. E. Bezzina stated that all printers and copiers at Grenfell are now defaulted to double-sided printing and that they are considering banning Styrofoam on their campus. A. McDonald stated that MI is now using paper instead of Styrofoam and that D. Haynes spearheaded that change. Action: A. McDonald to send D. Haynes’ contact information to N. Burt who will forward to E. Bezzina.

f) GSU: M. McCarthy stated that she met with the president of the GSU (Katherine Keats) and the sustainability co-ordinator (Becky Graham) regarding Sustainability Days in March.

g) MUNSU: M. McCarthy reported that the proposal to create a sustainability co-ordinator position for MUNSU has been denied. Adria Vasil, a Toronto Star columnist, has been chosen as the speaker for Sustainability Days.

h) Project Green: J. McLean stated that Project Green has a meeting planned with the Booster Juice (UC location) owner to suggest they switch from Styrofoam to paper cups. Project Green will be taking part in Sustainability Days.

i) C & C: A. McLoughlin stated that the C & C Sustainability Committee has initiated battery recycling in their department. They are also working on a system to recycle campus cell phones but there are bugs to be worked out because of privacy issues.

j) Community Garden: no update.

7.0 New Business

a) University Centre Management Advisory Committee (UMAC): M. McCarthy has drafted a letter to be sent to UMAC requested a reduction in the bottled water available in vending machines in the UC. She requested any comments this week. Action: T. Rowe to review the draft letter and make suggestions if there are any concerns.
b) MUN Sustainability Guide: J. McLean explained that he is working on a MUN campus sustainability guide that students, faculty and staff can use. MUNSU will be printing the guide in booklet form. He should have a draft document ready for the next ACS meeting.

8.0 Events/Announcements
a) Sustainability Week: Mar. 8 to 10. Sustainability Week Fair and Waste Audit both scheduled for March 8.
b) Pesticide Ban Forum: Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at St. John’s City Hall – Foran Room.
c) Regional Transportation Forum: Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in SN2025.
d) Canada Green Building Council free wine and cheese reception: Feb. 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in The Delta, Salon B.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2011 in the Board of Regents boardroom (A2029).