Minutes - Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Tuesday, March 9, 2010  9:30 am   Location: Board of Regents boardroom (A2029)

Attendance: Kris Aubrey, Nancy Burt, Alex Dolter (new GCSU rep. via videoconference) Peter Earle, Julie Green, Danielle Jeddore, Mano Krishnapillai (via videoconference), Jennifer Lokash, Meghan McCarthy, Angela McLoughlin, Arlene McDonald, Jorge Clemente Miranda-Trevino, Meghan Mitchell, Shannon O’Dea Dawson, Kevin O’Leary, Kate Reid-Shute, Terry Riche, Toby Rivers, Toby Rowe, Abigail Steel, Frank Wall, Guests: Laura O’Quinn (Sustainability Office work-term student), Terry Randell (Grenfell Student Union) via videoconference.

Regrets: Paula Corbett, Kent Decker, Josh Lepawsky, Dwayne Taverner, Bob Walsh

Chair: Jennifer Lokash   Minutes: Nancy Burt

1.0 Call to order and welcome: 9:30 am

2.0 Review/Revise Agenda:  T. Rowe added in Cell Phones and Surplus Furniture under New Business.

3.0 Introduction of members and guests in attendance:
New members: Danielle Jeddore (student at large), Jorge Clemente Miranda-Trevino (student at large), Kate Reid-Shute (at large), Meghan McCarthy (replacing Becky Winsor of MUNSU).
Other: Laura O’Quinn (invited guest - Sustainability Office work-term student)

4.0 Approval of minutes: January 12, 2010: approved (A. Steel / T. Rivers)
February 9, 2010: approved (A. Steel / S. O’Dea Dawson)

5.0 Action items from February 2010 meeting:
Action: T. Rowe to set up a meeting with Health and Safety concerning using New Alta to collect batteries (other than rechargeable). Carried forward. D. Miles suggested drafting a memo to H & S.
Action: T. Rowe to contact other departments to determine if interested in participating in Green Report Card. Carried forward until next year. T. Rowe investigated greenreportcard.org but it was after the deadline. Will revisit next year.
Action: The Membership Subcommittee will put recommendations for at large students and at large positions out for vote/approval via email prior to next meeting. Completed.
Action: T. Rowe will send out a motion for approval of interim members to the ACS for an email vote. Completed.
Action: T. Rowe will send out invitations to students chosen for subcommittees. Carried forward.
Action: T. Rowe will email ACS members to find ad hoc committee members for sustainability action plan. Completed
Action: F. Wall will look into sending a draft report to the Buildings Subcommittee, and they will discuss drafting a letter of support to be sent to Darrell Miles. Carried forward.

6.0 Membership
a) T. Rowe sent out applicants for at large students and at large positions for voting via e-mail. Becky Winsor of MUNSU abstained from voting on at large student positions. New members were approved as recommended by Membership Subcommittee.
b) T. Rowe welcomed new members and explained membership from Grenfell College: A. Dolter will represent the student union and for now will report to the Principal’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) since the PACS co-chairs have been unable to attend meetings, and Mano continues as Grenfell faculty representative.
c) T. Rowe explained how she has two membership distribution lists (with and without alternates) and requested clarification as to how these should be used. Outcome was that she will send messages requiring a vote to members only. Members list will be sent get minutes and agenda. Alternates should keep checking minutes on website. T. Rowe asked if she should be sending finalized minutes. It was agreed that members should check website for final minutes. J. Lokash asked if D2L could be used for this. T. Rowe stated that she and N. Burt did a D2L workshop and that the Paper and Recycling Subcommittee may try it to see how it works for them.

7.0 Reports
a) Paper and Recycling Subcommittee: no meeting/update.
b) Buildings subcommittee: T. Rowe updated that they discussed draft goals to be used by Action Plan Subcommittee. T. Rowe updated on urinal upgrades suggested by F. Wall and that the subcommittee was supportive however thought there might be more significant water conservation projects, such as air cooling systems. New Faculty of Medicine building and Academic building at Grenfell continue to aim for LEED silver; new residences in St. John’s are not. However, there is a new LEED credit system for residential buildings that is worth looking at. K. Aubrey suggested he draft a letter in support of and to encourage LEED certification in new residences. Action: K. Aubrey will modify letter on file and send to D. Miles, K. Decker, C. Burke and L. Walker.

c) Policies subcommittee: K. O’Leary spoke about a discussion he had with NL Hydro and suggested setting up a presentation to the ACS. Action: K. O’Leary to contact G. Jones re. giving a presentation on wind power and possible reductions on MUN hydro bills. T. Rowe spoke about whether we should attempt to make the MUN Water Pledge a policy. Action: T. Rowe to speak with Donna Ball, Senior Policy Analyst re MUN Water Pledge and potential of it becoming policy.

d) Marine Institute Sustainability Committee: A. MacDonald said that the focus of their last meeting was to discuss new ideas and which ones are practical. They also discussed the transportation survey draft and input was that it was too lengthy. T. Rowe explained that the survey draft has been shortened since their meeting and that the online survey will include sections that are skipped depending on answers. A. MacDonald stated that they meet again in a couple of weeks.

e) Principal’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability – SWGC: M. Krishnapillai outlined ideas that were brought up during their brainstorming session. Action: M. Krishnapillai to send list of ideas from PACS to T. Rowe. M. Krishnapillai also mentioned a software program that CONA is considering purchasing that will turn off computers on their campus automatically and will turn on again for updates. Cost is approximately $10,000, but potential annual savings could be as high as $65,000. K. Aubrey asked A. McLoughlin of C & C if we have any similar program available on St. John’s campus as remote access and getting updates are an issue when requesting staff to turn off their computers at the end of the day. A. McLoughlin stated that they are currently looking into the possibility of leaving one computer in each dept. on to allow remote access when all others are turned off. Action: T. Rowe to get more information on the software that CONA is considering.

A. Dolter provided an update of activities happening during Sustainability Week at Grenfell.

f) Project Green: T. Riche reported that PG hopes to have their version of the Sustainability Guide for St. John’s completed by fall 2010. J. Lokash suggested possibly getting the completed guide on the City of St. John’s website. K. Reid-Shute stated that the City has invited members of the public and interested groups to review the draft Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) on their website and to provide any comments on it. The deadline to submit suggestions was March 5.

g) MUNSU: M. McCarthy provided update on Sustainability Week activities and how the snowpeople project didn’t happen because of the lack of snow. Also that they are still working on an ethical purchasing policy for MUNSU.

8.0 New Business

a) Sustainability Declaration at Grenfell: T. Rowe stated that the declaration banner was sent to Grenfell for their Sustainability Week on March 8-11.

b) Carbon Credits: T. Rowe spoke about an “information only” meeting she had with D. Miles and Consultants regarding carbon credits and how they might work in NL and suggestions for projects.

c) Surplus Equipment: T. Rowe provided update on research completed to date on ways to recycle campus office furniture and equipment and how the challenge is lack of storage space.

d) Cell phone recycling: T. Rowe gave update on meeting she and N. Burt had with Jean Squires regarding current practices to recycle MUN cell phones.

9.0 Events/Announcements

a) Bottled Water Free Day: Mar. 11, 2010

b) MUN Water Pledge: T. Rowe stated that a memo will be sent to deans and directors about the MUN Water Pledge.

c) Geography Blue Box Seminar: March 12 @ 3 p.m. Chris McNabb is doing a short presentation on electronic waste at MUN. Action: T. Rowe to send out e-mail with particulars of Chris McNabb’s presentation.

d) “Soil & Seeds” – Spring Equinox Seminar (FEAST): K. Reid-Shute announced this seminar on back yard and container gardening at Cochrane Street Church, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 20, 2010.

e) Grenfell Green Book Event: and webcast March 25 @ 7:30 by Chris Turner to promote his book “Geography of Hope”. Greenbooksnlf.com

10.0 Next Meeting: April 13, 2010