Minutes – Advisory Committee on Sustainability  
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011  9:30 am  Location: A5014

Attendance: Kris Aubrey, Edwin Bezzina (joined via teleconference at 10:50 a.m.), Nancy Burt, Peter Earle, Michelle Fitzsimmons (replacing James Quinlan - GSU), Mano Krishnapillai (joined via teleconference at 10:50 a.m.), Josh Lepawsky, Arlene McDonald, Kevin O’Leary, Marcia Porter, Toby Rivers, Toby Rowe.

Regrets: Kareem al Hassan, Jennifer Lokash, Jackson McLean, Angela McLoughlin, Clemente Miranda, Kieran Smith, Dwayne Taverner, Carol Tibbo, Frank Wall, Bob Walsh.

Chair: Toby Rowe Minutes: Nancy Burt

1.0 Call to order and welcome: 9:30 am

2.0 Review/Revise Agenda: add recycling on campus to recycling in the UC in 5.0 Updates/Actions.

3.0 Approval of minutes: May 10, June 14 and July 12, 2011 minutes – approved.

4.0 Action items from previous meeting:

Action: D. Taverner volunteered to contact Chartwell’s for stats. Carried forward.

Action: J. Lokash to draft letter suggesting professors accept double-sided documents from students, and will also follow up with J. Carroll at the QEII Library re; printers being defaulted to double-sided. Carried Forward.

Action: N. Burt to send signage used on St. John’s campus to Grenfell to see if it’s suitable for the new filling station on the Grenfell campus. Completed.

Action: T. Rowe will suggest public transit coalition wait until students are back on campus in large numbers this coming September to get their input. Carried forward.

Action: K. O’Leary to check archive for Harris Centre Presentation on wind power.

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 2012 semester.

5.0 Updates/Actions

a) Membership and VP Council: T. Rowe explained that there is a new VP Council (VPC) has been set up to handle day-to-day decisions of the university and make recommendations to president. They are currently reviewing the committees that will (or might) report to the VPC. Kent Decker supports the ACS (university-wide) reporting to the VPC. T. Rowe suggested moving ahead with the set up of the St. John’s campus committee. Action: T. Rowe to forward membership section from the ACS Terms of Reference to Grenfell and MI representatives for discussion at the next meeting.

b) Action Plan: T. Rowe requested volunteers to help with completion of the action plan.

c) Waste Audit: T. Rowe provided update on waste audits completed in the Childcare Centre during the summer. Also, that there are five more audits planned in different buildings on campus over the fall term.

d) Recycling in the UC and on campus: T. Rowe explained problems with contamination in the new recycling bins in the UC and the issues with recycling at MUN vs. recycling at home. The City of St. John’s considers MUN to be private property and would only pick up at “entrances” to the property, i.e., a roadway. Burton’s Pond apartments could put their recycling on Allandale Rd., but would be limited to 10 bags every two weeks (the limit for each home in the city). The city now accepts plastics such as yogurt containers as well as beverage containers (except glass); MUN currently only recycles beverage containers. Items accepted for recycling with the City have to be washed and it is difficult to ensure this at a place the size of MUN. P. Earle suggested the ACS lobby for a cleaning machine at Robin Hood Bay so these items could be recycled. J. Lepawsky pointed out that the use of water for these cleaning machines may not be sustainable. M. Fitzsimmons suggested putting information on how to recycle on campus in the information packages supplied to students when they move into residence. M. Porter suggested she write a story for the website outlining the do’s and don’ts of recycling on campus.

6.0 Reports
a) Paper and Recycling Subcommittee: No update.
b) Sustainable Infrastructure Subcommittee: No update.
c) Policies Subcommittee: No update.
d) Marine Institute Sustainability Committee: A. McDonald reported that the Holyrood Beach clean-up, held at the end of July, was a success. Also, that the committee is meeting next week.
e) Vice-President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (Grenfell Campus): E. Bezzina stated that they are planning the Grand Opening event for the composter that was set up this past summer. The Grenfell Community Garden was approved in May and the committee has met throughout the summer. Construction of the garden is beginning the end of September.
f) GSU: M. Fitzsimmons stated that the GSU Sustainability Committee has not met over the summer but plans to meet in October. B. Winsor has left her position as chair on the GSU Sustainability Committee and Riley Pollom is filling in. R. Pollom requested that M. Fitzsimmons check as to why the ACS isn’t a member of AASHE. T. Rowe said that membership is expensive (approx. $1500) and it’s also very expensive to fly to the meetings. She suggested the GSU and VPACS should consider membership on the Atlantic University and College Sustainability Network (AUCSN) of which the ACS is now a member. **Action:** T. Rowe to send AUCSN contact information to the GSU and Grenfell committee.
g) MUNSU: No update.
h) C & C: T. Rowe updated members on the Apple Recycling initiative for electronics on campus and that C & C will follow up with Apple to get more information on that initiative.
i) Project Green: No update
j) Community Garden: T. Rowe stated that the Grand Opening in August went well and that there were many visitors. Also, that the board is now preparing for next season and is in the process of recruiting new board members.

7.0 New Business

a) Tree removal on campus: T. Rowe stated that there are a number of trees being removed in front of the Arts building to make room for parking. Dalhousie has a policy where depending on the size of the tree being removed, more trees are planted elsewhere on campus to keep the same amount of vegetation as before the tree was removed. **ACTION:** T. Rowe to get a copy of Dal’s tree removal policy for discussion.
b) Apple electronics recycling initiative: See 6.0 h).
c) Bikeshare: Bikeshare has not been active over the past year. The bikes are stored in the Earth Sciences parking garage. There have been some discussions (MUNSU, Toby, previous Bikeshare members) on how to get the program running again.

8.0 Events/Announcements - no events or announcements

Next Meeting: October 11, 2011 in A5014