Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Meeting Minutes
Date: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: A 2029

Attendance: Kris Aubrey, Wolfgang Banzhaf, Shannon Dawson, Peter Earle, Josh Lepawsky, Jennifer Lokash, Darrell Miles (guest), Meghan Mitchell, Kevin O’Leary, Charmaine Penney (Sustainability intern), Toby Rivers, Toby Rowe (Sustainability Coordinator), Abigail Steele, Dennis Waterman (by videoconference)

Regrets: Paula Corbett, Adam Courage, Kent Decker, John Drover, Rhea Hutchings, Gerri King, Mano Krishnapillai, Melissa Penney, Peter Smith, Dwayne Taverner, Andy Woolridge

Chair: Jennifer Lokash
Minutes: Charmaine Penney

1.0 Call to Order
9:30 a.m.

2.0 Minutes
January 13/09 minutes reviewed & accepted. (J. Lepawsky/T. Rivers)

3.0 Action Items from January meeting
Action item: T. Rowe will ask Kent Budden if he has been notified of any problems from the contractor who collects the paper on St. John’s campus for recycling. Completed
Action: The Paper and Recycling Subcommittee will consider what action to take in order to encourage MUNFA to reduce its paper use. Completed
Action: T. Rowe to notify T. Rivers of the next meeting of the Buildings Subcommittee. Carried forward

4.0 ACS membership
Kris Aubrey of Faculty of Medicine was welcomed. Andy Woolridge from GCSU was not present.

5.0 Sub-committee Reports
Paper and Recycling (J. Lokash): J. Lokash provided an overview from last meeting. Meghan (MUCEP student) and Toby will meet with MUNSU to work out plan for Better Side notebooks. Fifty notebooks were provided free of charge to the recent Atlantic Sustainability Conference participants. M. Mitchell said Student Affairs would like to be able to provide notebooks to students. Possible availability of the notebooks at the MUN bookstore was discussed, however T. Rowe said the plan was for Project Green to collect proceeds from the sale of notebooks, and sale at the bookstore may not allow for that.

T. Rivers questioned whether the paper collected on campus actually gets recycled. T. Rowe said that New Found Disposal has the contract to pick up MUN’s paper and Scotia Recycling is where paper is accepted. She mentioned an interview with Scotia Recycling on RadioNoon regarding paper recycling. P. Earle said he had tried to find the interview on CBC website and couldn’t.

J. Lokash provided an update on the recycling pilot in St. John’s: it has been reduced to pick up every 2nd week and they no longer accept tetra paks or milk cartons.

Policies (J. Lepawsky): At the last policies meeting J. Lepawsky’s grad student gave an update on computer policies (acquisition and disposal) at MUN.

Buildings: there was no meeting since last ACS meeting.
CSAF (T. Rowe): T. Rowe explained that Geography 2302 is using the CSAF document to look at sustainability at MUN. A class of about 60 students is divided into groups studying various indicators. T. Rowe has been responding to questions from students and referring them to appropriate contacts. The biggest challenge is that the accounting/reporting systems at MUN are not set up to provide the type of information being requested. The CSAF committee should meet soon and try to recruit new members. P. Earle would like to meet with Toby soon regarding the transportation proposal with a deadline in March.

6.0 Updates
Marine Institute: Adam Courage not present.

SWGC: D. Waterman provided Grenfell update. An ad hoc sustainability committee has formed. They are looking into the feasibility of solar power in one of the chalets. He noted there was much interest in the Paperless Pay campaign at Grenfell. T. Rowe mentioned that a Grenfell employee had secured a gift certificate from the Grenfell bookstore to be used as a prize for the paperless pay campaign, and it had not yet been awarded. D. Waterman suggested keeping the prize until the Grenfell committee determines if they will continue with a Grenfell specific campaign. Grenfell is ready to talk to Honeywell regarding the EPC proposal.

EHSSI: J. Lepawsky encouraged interested people to join the EHSSI listserve. He and T. Rowe recommended to the EHSSI steering committee that a close working relationship between EHSSI, the ACS and student groups be stated in their action plan.

Housing: D. Taverner provided T. Rowe with an email update about the first trayless day at the dining hall. M. Mitchell mentioned that there had been both positive and negative feedback and that likely it was a change issue and would merely require some time for people to get used to. J. Lokash suggested doing it for a week next time in order to aid the transition for people. D. Taverner hopes to have weekly trayless days.

Paperless Pay Campaign: T. Rowe provided a Paperless Pay update. On Feb. 6, the last day of the campaign, 1432 employees had opted out of paystubs. S. Dawson noted that competition and drive from within individual offices has a big impact on whether or not people opt out. J. Lokash asked whether an opt-in system is being explored. S. Dawson stated it was in the works however a system for retirees and students needs to be implemented first. Further, Brenda Mullett in HR had done a lot of work in this area with C&C. K. O’Leary noted an opt-in system would be ideal since password issues seemed to be the major hindrance for people. S. Dawson commented that the helpline is available for people and they can get their password over the phone in a few minutes. J. Lokash commented on the problem faculty were having opting out since it changed their webmail password. K. Aubrey suggested having paystubs emailed to people.

Atlantic Sustainability Conference: T. Rowe provided an update since Peter Smith was not in attendance. Roughly 50 delegates attended the conference, about half from out of the province. Project Green received funding from the provincial government to help with travel costs for participants from NL. Participants decided they would work together on bottled water free campaign for all Atlantic university campuses.

Water Survey: T. Rowe has drafted a water survey and would like input on it. Action: T. Rowe will send water survey to K. O’Leary and A. Steel for review, as well as to student groups.

7.0 New Business
Kill A Watt electricity usage monitors (T. Rowe): The Sustainability office plans to buy nine Kill A Watt power use monitors to be available to the university community to raise awareness of power usage. D. Miles asked if the Library was able to sign them out. T. Rowe contacted Joe Carroll at the library and is waiting to hear back. There was discussion of possible feedback forms from participants and rental fees. J. Lokash encouraged everyone to visit the website greengadgets.com.
MUNFA Collective Agreement: MUNFA will be negotiating a new contract soon. T. Rowe received a message from Lev Tarasov informing MUNFA members that they can comment on the contract before March 3.

Action: K. Aubrey and Wolfgang Banzhaf will review the MUNFA collective agreement and recommend changes that could decrease paper use by MUNFA.

ACS Activities: A. Steele recommended initiatives at the departmental level. T. Rivers recommended examining issues surrounding power usage in some of the labs due to cooling, tools, mechanics, etc. D. Miles noted that a lot of sustainability initiatives required a change in culture or thinking. W. Banzhaf suggested meeting with faculty or attending faculty council meetings. S. Dawson recommended Lunch & Learns to help promote sustainability.

Other discussion
There is a new Health and Safety department recently separated from Facilities Management and they now report to a new director. D. Miles said this is in line with practices on other campuses of this size.

There was discussion regarding possible metering of the residence buildings. D. Miles said this was a very expensive project. MUN’s electricity is distributed from its own substation and there’s no way to know how much electricity each individual building is using currently.

8.0 Events/Announcements
Webcast: Environmental Sustainability as a Strategic Policy Issue: What Governing Boards Need to Know, Feb. 11, 2009, 1:30 INCO 2014

9.0 Next Meeting: Mar. 10, 2009