Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Meeting Minutes
Date: Tuesday January 13, 2009
Time: 9.30am
Location: A-5014

Attendance: Abigail Steel (Co-chair), Dennis Waterman, Kevin O’Leary (left early), Peter Smith, Kent Decker, Jennifer Lokash, Meghan Mitchell (left early), Toby Rivers, Peter Earle, Josh Lepawsky, Shannon O’Dea Dawson, Rhea Hutchings (via teleconference), Melissa Penney, Charmaine Penney (Sustainability Office Intern), Toby Rowe (Sustainability Coordinator)

Regrets: Paula Corbett, Adam Courage Dwayne Taverner, Mano Krishnapillai, Wolfgang Banzhaf, Gerri King Craig Stacey

Chair: Abigail Steel. Minutes: Charmaine Penney

1. Call to Order: Abigail Steel called meeting to order at 9:30 AM

2. Review & Approve Minutes from December 9/08: Minutes approved (Lepawsky/Smith)

3. Items to add to Agenda
ACS to receive updates at every meeting from Grenfell, MI.

4. Review of Action items from December meeting

   Action: Dwayne to follow up with Kent Budden on recycling issues in Barnes House and Hatcher House offices.
   T. Rowe stated Dwayne Taverner was to follow up with Kent Budden regarding recycling on campus. He was not in attendance this meeting to update committee.

   Action: Toby to contact CSAF subcommittee to help with selection of assessment indicators for Geography class.
   T. Rowe met with MUN professor (Kelly Vodden) regarding her course and the assessment indicators they will study.

   Action: Toby to contact Harris Centre to determine its interest in being part of the Carbon Offset Fund proposal to government.
   T. Rowe and Bruce Gorman met with Rob Greenwood and Mike Clair of the Harris Centre regarding this project and they said they did not have the capacity to take on the project.

5. New Members
Meghan Mitchell from Student Services (staff) and Toby Rivers (faculty: Earth Science) were welcomed as new members of the Committee. Approved (J.Lokash/J. Lepawsky)

   Jennifer Lokash was nominated for Co-Chair position. Approved (D. Waterman/S. O’Dea- Dawson)

It was suggested that for faculty, one term may be a reasonable commitment (due to changes to schedule each term). This could be addressed in next review of the Terms of Reference.

6. Subcommittee Reports

   Paper and Recycling: meeting was cancelled this week.
   Other discussion: Toby Rivers inquired about paper recycling on campus and if the paper actually gets recycled. Toby Rowe said there was a contract in place for office paper to be picked up and brought to a recycling depot. Dennis Waterman said city of Corner Brook was having a problem getting its paper recycled. Rhea Hutchings said it is an issue for her and a solution was needed. The dumpster fee has recently doubled and city of Corner Brook is going to have to assess their options. D. Waterman said city of Corner Brook has been to stop using the dumpster and instead break waste into smaller components and use their own transportation to deliver materials to landfill. He suggested pressuring the government regarding increased dumping fees. A. Steel commented that one idea is to break
the cardboard waste down into small pieces and compost it. The potential backlash of dump fee increases on small business was mentioned. P. Earle commented that a similar issue may arise with plastic recyclables in the future. North America ships much of its plastics to China however due to economic downturn China will soon no longer accept all these materials because of factory closures/layoffs, etc.

**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.

T. Rivers pointed out that MUNFA wastes a terrible amount of paper. J. Lokash agreed and said some professors are resistant to change. J. Lepawsky pointed out that electronic paystubs were a privacy and identity theft issue for some. P. Smith inquired if a letter from Project Green to MUNFA would be of assistance. This issue has already been discussed by the Paper and Recycling subcommittee, and a letter to MUNFA was composed but never sent.

**Action:** The Paper and Recycling Subcommittee will consider what action to take in order to encourage MUNFA to reduce its paper use.

**Buildings:** T. Rowe updated that Darrell Miles and Keith Hiscock attended the last meeting to field questions regarding the proposed residence. Currently, the proposal is sitting with government. The committee and Darrell Miles will work together to complete the checklist for LEED.

T. Rivers suggested the option of geothermal heat. T. Rowe said consultants had investigated that option and did not recommend it for various reasons. K. Decker mentioned an issue involving bedrock. T. Rivers asked if that information could be provided to the committee and it was suggested that he attend the next meeting of the buildings subcommittee.

**Action:** T. Rowe to notify T. Rivers of the next meeting of the Buildings Subcommittee

**Policy:** Josh Lepawsky provided update on the development of the university wide declaration/ vision mission mandate to be done before developing more specific policy. He stressed the importance of co-ordinating ESHSI, ACS and student groups. J. Lepawsky explained that ESSHI had a strategic planning session in December and their strategic planning document has not been finalized. The ESHSI listserv is open for anyone to join. J. Lepawsky will continue to act as a link between the two groups. T. Rowe highlighted the popularity of Taillores at other universities and that signing is important if only symbolically. D. Waterman inquired if there was any negative impacts in signing the declaration and if not, ACS should encourage MUN to sign. K. Decker stated that avenue had already been explored and it was decided against.

**CSAF:** T. Rowe and P. Earle were notified that they did not receive funding for transportation research, but were redirected to another funding source. T. Rowe provided update that Bikeshare, through the Sierra Club of Canada, received funding and that some of this is allocated to research into sustainable transportation. S. Dawson suggested following up with geography students (prof. Alvin Simms) who might be able to do some research into transportation as suggested by Rob Greenwood.

7. **Updates**

**Paystub Opt Out Campaign**
T. Rowe updated that 200 employees had opted out since the launch of the Paperless Pay campaign. T. Rowe said she would contact the Admin. Managers to forward notice internally.

**Website**
The new website should be launched next week.

**Atlantic Sustainability Conference (Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, 2009)**
P. Smith updated that Project Green are waiting on funding. They are getting food for the conference this week and will provide vegetarian and vegan meals at the conference. The waste will be composted by Lesters Farms or Botanical Garden. The speakers are finalized including Bill Rees, Elizabeth Weir and Josh Lepawsky. The agenda is finalized. Printing Services will have their materials done by the 19th and a Better Side notebook will be provided to every delegate. They are still working on accommodations. T. Rowe stated that Darrell Miles approved any extra security required if necessary to facilitate accommodations. 26 delegates have registered thus far, half of which are from
outside the province. Two other Sustainability Coordinators are attending the conference and T. Rowe has arranged a meeting with them.

Grenfell: D. Waterman provided update on the newly formed sustainability committee in Grenfell. The first meeting will be held in January.

8. New Business
Faculty of Medicine (Health Sciences Complex): T. Rowe mentioned the interest in sustainability in HSC Faculty of Medicine and wondered if ACS needed to approve a new committee. J. Lepawsky mentioned communicating with the NL Applied Health Research group.

9. Announcements
P. Smith announced he, along with another Project Green volunteer, would be guest on CBC’s RadioNoon Crosstalk regarding bottled water.

T. Rowe stated that Bill Rees, founder of the Ecological Footprint idea would be having a lecture Jan. 28 7:30 PM in the INCO Centre. She would Rees to focus on policy for his presentation at the upcoming Atlantic Sustainability Conference. Additionally, Donna Ball sent Toby a notice of a presentation titled “Sustainability as strategic policy issue for boards and trustees”. K. Decker said he had someone in mind from Board of Regents to attend.

T. Rivers called attention to all the vending machines on campus that are burning a lot of electricity. K. Decker responded that the machines are contracted out to Chartwells. Also, many have been retrofitted to turn off automatically when not in use, thus burning less energy.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.
Next Meeting Feb. 10/09