



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE February 23, 2021 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm Teams Meeting

Present: Leila Tjiang, Sustainability Commissioner
Ray DeSouza, Bursar and CAO
Vikas Mehta, Director Physical Plant - Chair
Lyndon Nobre, Director of Business and Ancillary Services
Shainiya Balachandran, Dean's Office

Absent: Jerico Raguindin, Sustainability Co-Chair
Alero Ogbeide, Dean's Office (alternate)

Recording Secretary: Véronique Morris, Physical Plant

Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on November 5, 2020. Carried.

Business arising from previous minutes

- Sustainability web page: Vikas informed the Committee that the VUSAC sustainability web page is linked to the Victoria University Sustainability web page.

Project updates:

- Vic Zero Project: Leila reported that the Sustainability Commission does not have many updates. The strategic report was published in November 2020 and there were talks with high-level stakeholders about outcomes during which the Sustainability Committee was identified as a great forum to discuss issues.
- Bursar's Office:
 - Ray noted that the strategic plan discussion have started again and will reference sustainability in a broad sense.
 - Ray asked the Committee how to collect data with metrics to obtain a baseline while the campus is still on lockdown. Vikas mentioned that Physical Plant is monitoring utility bills compared to the last year at full occupation and that the new budget analysis is based on capacity. The ventilation is kept working 24/7. Due to the large number of capital projects to be done over the summer in residences it would be difficult to do a baseline.
 - Ray concluded that the baseline is different but not significantly different.

- Physical Plant:
 - Campus Facilities Energy Audit: Vikas informed the Committee that he has received some proposals and is still expected one more. The audit will need full occupation of the buildings and will take place over two seasons. Decision to award the work in two months.
 - Mechanical and Electrical Design Standards: work awarded to Morrison & Hershfield who will use guidelines from U of T and complete the work in six months.
 - Geothermal feasibility study: Vikas has received two proposals and is waiting for one more; two-phase project: high-level study in phase 1; if results are positive work will move forward to phase 2. Decision to be made in a couple of months.
- Dean's Office:
 - Shainiya informed the Committee that there are no formal updates from the Dean's office.
- Ancillary Services:
 - Lyndon updated the Committee about the different initiatives already undertaken such as the monitors in Burwash Hall being used as a tool, like the tote bag with a messaging piece, or finding the best type of packaging considering the increase of take out containers. Food Services have reached out to their vendors such as Gordon Food Services who provided a presentation demonstrating how sustainable the organization is. Food Services is working with Clear Choice Program and with Food Forward Program to integrate some of their tested recipes into the University's menus. Currently 25% of the menu is plant based. Food Services meet on a monthly basis with student volunteers to bring forward initiatives.
 - **Action:** Lyndon to send link of Gordon Food Services sustainability presentation.

Vision for next year - Sustainability Commission

Leila started a discussion about the status of the Sustainability Committee regarding its adaptability and goals. Leila suggested a review of the terms of reference, more specifically the addition of meetings and the increase in student representation for student input and communication. The Committee agreed to add one extra meeting as long as the meeting is productive; the third meeting would be a learning meeting, strategic and educational; the other two meetings would be business meetings. Sub-groups within the Committee could be formed and experts could be invited to the third meeting. Shainiya did not recommend a meeting in the summer. Vikas suggested inviting the consultant working on the geothermal feasibility study in the future.

The Committee agreed to increase student representation by two; these students would be randomly selected outside of the regular student groups. Ray reminded Shainiya to include Emmanuel College students. The Committee noted that it is important to have continuity with students. The Committee agreed to cap the maximum membership at 11 and to include 2 more random students.

Action: Shainiya and Leila to propose language for selection of additional student representation (2) for the terms of reference.

Action: Vikas to propose dates for three meetings a year for the terms of reference.

Action: Committee agreed to review the terms of reference on a three-year basis; next review will be in February 2024.

Other

Leila's term as Sustainability Commissioner ends after this meeting and the Committee thanked her for all her input and ideas. A new Commissioner will be hired before the next meeting. Leila thanked the Committee as well.

Next meeting:

The next meeting date TBD.