



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**  
**March 1, 2022 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**  
**Teams Meeting**

**Present:** Justin Lim, Sustainability Commissioner  
Alisha Yafen Zhao, Sustainability Co-Chair  
Michelle Yoonseo Lee, General Student Representative  
Stephanie Zhenling Wang, General Student Representative  
Ray DeSouza, Bursar and CAO  
Vikas Mehta, Executive Director Infrastructure and Sustainability - Chair  
Lyndon Nobre, Director of Business and Ancillary Services  
Shainiya Balachandran, Assistant Dean Student Life

**Absent:** Daniel Yihan Mao, Residence Council President  
Diana Vink, Residence Council President Alternate

**Guest:** Sally Szuster, Director of Communications

**Recording Secretary:** Véronique Morris, Infrastructure and Sustainability

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**Attendance:** meeting started with a round table introduction of all participants and a welcome to new committee members.

Ray DeSouza announced and discussed the rationale behind the creation of the new Infrastructure and Sustainability department, directed by Vikas Mehta as Executive Director. Decision is in line with the University's strategic plan. Vikas Mehta gave an overview of the history of the Sustainability Committee and on-going sustainability initiatives at Victoria University.

**Review and approval of previous minutes:**

Motion to approve the minutes held on October 19, 2021 by Vikas Mehta and seconded by Lyndon Nobre. Carried

Motion to approve the minutes held on February 23, 2021 by Lyndon Nobre and seconded by Justin Lim. Carried.

**Business arising from previous meeting:**

Ray DeSouza updated the Committee regarding a meeting held in 2021 with VUSAC representatives to the Board. Discussions around net zero plan and other general issues in line with strategic plan are still on-going. Bursar's office to inform Department of Infrastructure and Sustainability when decisions and further plans for implementation are finalized.

Ray DeSouza informed Committee that the geothermal funds has been renamed Sustainability funds. This means other sustainability initiatives such as energy audits, feasibility of solar arrays, green energy solutions, etc, possibly funded through this fund.

Dean's office welcomed the increase of student membership on Committee, particularly the random population representation.

### **Project updates:**

#### *Infrastructure and Sustainability*

- Energy audits: to be funded by the Sustainability funds. We are awaiting full capacity to start the project.
- Mechanical and electrical design standards: working with consultant Morrison & Hershfield for major capital projects with a focus on sustainability and accessibility. Expected completion by March 31 and standards to be presented to the Bursar's office and discussed at future Sustainability Committee meetings.
- Geothermal feasibility study: study being conducted in Margaret Addison Hall field for the Goldring Student Centre and other buildings. Positive results from phase 1 leading to phase 2 of the study. Tender for phase 2 to drill bore holes is scheduled for March 2022. Report/findings will be presented to the Bursar's office and Senior Management. Final report to be discussed at future Sustainability Committee meetings.
- Capital projects:
  - o Exterior lighting at campus was replaced and new lighting is energy efficient and LED.
  - o Chiller for air conditioning systems in the EJ Pratt Library currently being replaced with energy efficient chiller resulting in \$15,000 in energy reduction rebate from save-on-energy program. Going forward, we expect reduction in hydro consumption at EJ Pratt through summer.
  - o Installation of sub-meters for the campus-wide irrigation systems starting soon; will create a baseline, allow remote readings to be taken regularly, and mitigate water waste.
  - o Replacement/refurbishment of windows in Annesley Hall and Lower Burwash to continue this summer.

#### *Food Services*

- Take out program due to Covid-19 worked well but resulted in an increase of take-out containers that filled the garbage bins. Food Services reached out to two vendors to put in place a reusable container program; Food Services to work closely with the Department of Infrastructure and Sustainability to prevent other issues such as pest control.
- Review of partnership with vendors to ensure vendors are like-minded partners.
- Plant-based menu counts for 60% of the menu; looking to increase this number.
- Monthly meetings with students to increase student initiatives are on-going.

#### *Dean's office*

- New residence coordinator working with Food Services and students committee.
- New initiatives have been undertaken such as delivery of reusable cutlery set, reusable mugs and other reusable products to students; on-going work with commuter dons.

### **Sustainability Commission**

Justin Lim thanked the Committee for implementing the recommendations made last year regarding the terms of reference. Revised terms of reference posted on the web site.

The Sustainability Commission aims to introduce options to encourage students to practice sustainability in their lives and increase awareness to improve interest in sustainability.

Justin Lim suggested increasing the 3-compartment garbage bins use on campus. Vikas Mehta responded that this project will continue as soon as the situation around the pandemic allows it. The second recommendation is to have more bottle filling stations on campus. Many bottle filling stations added in various Vic Sites in last two years. Additional Installations will resume asap. The Department of Infrastructure and Sustainability to send the Department of Communications the list of buildings with bottle filling stations to be posted online. Alisha Yafen Zhao suggested presenting more options to students on what students can do in their lives such as sharing plant-based recipes. Alisha to join Food Services monthly meetings with students to discuss options.

Stephanie Zhenling Wang recommended removing the use of single-bottle in vending machines. Food Services to look into that and noted that the number of vending machines has decreased already. Vikas Mehta to connect Food Services with UFT Mississauga who have adopted a similar program. Justin Lim proposed increasing the price of single bottles. Stephanie's second recommendation is having sustainable snacks, which Food Services is exploring.

Michelle Yoonseo Lee asked about the food waste diversion program at Vic. Lyndon Nobre explained that Food Services use production sheets and discussed challenges around the pick-up of leftover food with vendors; Food Services has minimal leftover.

Shainiya Balachandran discussed reintroducing incentive program such as "bring your own mug" once the health and safety concern due to Covid-19 is removed. Lyndon Nobre confirmed the program is still available but momentarily halted.

### **Comments and questions**

Sally Szuster asked that a photo of the Sustainability Committee be taken to be posted online. Shainiya to forward photo to Communications.

**Next meeting:** to be determined.