

COTR Sustainability Committee

MINUTES

September 22, 2021

3:30-4:30 Room S220

Present: Sheena Svitich, John McDonough, Allan Knibbs, Darrell Bethune, Cori Trinder

Regrets: Brian Millis, Cori Andrichuk, Karen Langan, Colleen Bailey

1. Order of Business

a. Agenda

Accepted, with the addition of 4.d. Electric Charging Stations and 4.e. Bike Racks.

b. Call for Nominations for Committee Chair and Election if necessary

Quorum not met; Sheena will act as the Chair temporarily until voting can be done.

2. Previous Minutes

February 2, 2021 minutes accepted as presented.

3. Old Business

a. Composter Update

The composter is currently being used as a trial by Pita Wrapbit and the Culinary program; the original plan was to have it in full-College operation this September. It was suggested and then accepted by the Committee that the rollout to the rest of the College be delayed until January. That way we can see how things go now that the College is finally in full operation. When full College-use does roll out, the education piece will be very important.

b. Bottle Water Update

Since we now have filtered water fill-up stations, the ongoing plan to stop bottled water sales within the College goes on. We need to touch base with Cori Andrichuk to see when the sale of bottled water will be scheduled to be stopped. Pita Wrapbit is on board to stop selling it as soon as we eliminate it from the machines.

It was also asked whether any Culligan units are still in use around the College because we should perhaps suggest that staff ease out of using them. (Some people though don't like water in the filtered water stations, which may mean some Culligan units may still be in use. The advice for this is for people to run the water a bit before filling their containers at the filtered water stations.) John and others will keep an eye open to see if there are any Culligan units still in use. The College owns the stands, so those that are definitely no longer in use could be removed and stored somewhere by putting in a FAME ticket.

c. Website Update

The Committee perused the current Sustainability website. It seems fairly good, with information about past and current projects. It was suggested that we need some place for our minutes to be linked on there; Sheena will investigate this with Marketing. She will also investigate who the sustainability@cotr.bc.ca e-mail goes to. We will also have to get a bit of contact information on there, such as a listing of the Committee members perhaps. Greg's e-mail will need to be changed once a new chair is elected. Allan's name is not listed and it should be.

4. New Business**a. Terms of Reference of Committee—Study Abroad Carbon Emissions Purchase Programs/ signing on to UN Sustainability Goals**

Earlier in the summer we had received e-mails from Kerry Brinkert and Paul Tiege asking whether we would support these initiatives. They do indeed fall under our Terms of Reference, which does say "The committee is an idea generator and sounding board for projects that enable the College to meeting sustainability objectives and may recommend such projects for consideration by the College." Sheena will touch base with Kerry and Paul to find out the current status of these two items and will recirculate these e-mails or updated information to the Sustainability Committee.

According to the Terms of Reference, there needs to be a campus representative and two students on the committee as well. Sheena will reach out to Leah Bradish and confirm whether she is still on the committee. John will ask around to see if there are some interested students in programs such as Environmental Studies or the BBA program. We'll then contact the Student Association for its approval/help if we find some interested students.

b. Recycling Guidelines

Allan confirmed that what can be placed in office blue bins has not changed with the new curbside recycling programs in place in many municipalities, which has slight differences in which items can be accepted. The general rule is that if you can put it in yellow bins around the community, it can go in our office blue bins. The blue office recycling bins are emptied into a big yellow bin. So this would include paper, cardboard, tin/aluminum cans, grocery bags, and plastics #1-#6 (no Styrofoam, even though it is marked #6). Sheena agreed to communicate this information out. She will also mention in her communication that the College will soon be getting containers in which to recycle used paper masks.

c. Hiring of Student Assistant

The Committee agreed that we should start this process; we do have work that the student assistant could be involved with. It will be important, for example, to get information out about composting. It may also be good to have a new waste audit done now that we have the composter. There was a suggestion made about gathering case studies from staff members and students who are involved in sustainability actions or projects. Our student assistant could maybe help with that as well. It might be good for the Sustainability Committee/the student assistant to present some sort of report to the Board with the results.

d. Electric Charging Stations

The College now has two electric charging stations. Full charge time is about two hours. The hope is that we will gradually increase the number of stations in anticipation of increased need for them.

e. Bike Racks

There is only one rack at the College (near Summit Hall) that handles e-bikes with larger tires and/or bikes with fenders. We either need to get current racks modified or get more racks. Allan indicated this is definitely on the radar. Sheena will also ask the Welding program if it's possible for this to be a student project.

5. Information

Sheena reported that she's also part of the Federation of Post Secondary Educators Climate Action standing committee, and she will likely share some information about the latest campaign for climate in BC. It was also mentioned by members of the Committee that the College's latest community report, called *Ascend*, has a nice graphic about sustainability in it.