

President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS)

Meeting Notes – June 20, 2011

The first meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability convened at 1:30 p.m. in AH 527 Boardroom. The Chair, Thomas Chase, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), welcomed members and invited roundtable introductions of those present (Katherine Arbuthnott, Lyle Benko, Jenn Bergen, Melissa Blackhurst, and Emmet Boyle). The Chair reviewed the meeting format and discussed the Terms of Reference, including the Terms of Office. An advisory rather than a decision-making group, PACS is directly responsible to the President of the University of Regina, advising the President on recommendations for the various decision making bodies on campus (Executive of Council, Senate, Board of Governors, University of Regina Students Union and Graduate Students Association).

The Committee's mandate is derived directly from the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan *mâdawohkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities* A5 – Sustainability and environmental impact:

A5 – Make the University a leader in environmental responsibility. Put sustainability at the core of our teaching, research, and campus life.

We will promote sustainability in the way that we work and live on our campus, and will seek to minimize our impact on the environment. Wherever appropriate, we will address issues of sustainability in our curricula, and emphasize them in our research, public service, and administrative practices. In the broad context of climate change and human health, we will examine our operations in order to reduce our consumption of energy and our campus's impact on the environment. In this same context we will evaluate all campus development, our approach to transportation and parking, and our pace in the Wascana Centre and the City of Regina.

The Chair discussed a broader vision of sustainability which includes reputational and fiscal sustainability.

Committee members offered various thoughts and ideas regarding sustainability:

Frugality – use less, waste less, how do we think about 'what is enough'. How can we do better with less?

Bold action will attract students. Create a campus that is living, teaching and actively sustainable – engage students in these endeavours to get buy in.

Advertise what we are currently doing, e.g. campaign to eliminate water bottles on campus, current recycling efforts, print optimization project, include the broader community in this awareness campaign.

Partnerships with other sustainable groups and initiatives, including the City of Regina on transportation.

Space considerations – we do not have a space problem, but we do have a “space utilization problem”. Emmett Boyle noted that “the most sustainable building you can have is the one you don’t have to build.” Find viable solutions to space issues.

The Committee will need to be the consciousness across campus to make good use of what we already have.

There is a focus on campus to attract more aboriginal students, so PACS would like to explore projects that have an aboriginal focus. Is there a need to have an aboriginal representative on PACS?

PACS discussed deliverables – set specific tasks for sustainability (i.e. ban on water bottles, better use of classroom space for timetabling), and the need to meet these objectives, and then report on them to the UofR community and further.

The Chair will look into the Office of Sustainability and where things are at with that.

Next meeting – September 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.