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## MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 22 January 2014 / 8:30 – 10:00 am / AH 527

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<b>MEMBERS</b>	T Chase (Chair), K Arbuthnott, D Cherwaty, J Crivea, D McMartin, B Paterson (URSU Rep), R Petry, C Reyda, Nwakaku Okere ( <i>student intern</i> )
<b>GUESTS</b>	Frédéric Dupré; Jeeshan Ahmed
<b>REGRETS</b>	N Wagner

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1. **Call to order at 8:30 am.**
2. **Agenda approved as received. Meeting notes of 20 November 2013 received without emendation**
3. **Sustainability Initiative Fund**

Frédéric Dupré joined the meeting to present and discuss the proposed “Sustainability Initiative Fund”. The Sustainability Initiative Fund is project-based for the whole community to access. Students, faculty or staff could apply for funding. The guideline of what types of projects are eligible and how the fund would work will be up to the (currently six) partners who will be meeting soon to discuss TOR. President Timmons has agreed to match confirmed funding.

The President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability supports and endorses the Sustainability Initiative Fund and is willing to assist where possible.

4. **Update from the Sustainability Coordinator**

A report from the Sustainability Coordinator was distributed (**Attachment 1**). PACS sub-committee member Katherine Arbuthnott did a first pass at categorizing the responses to the ‘open-ended questions’ (**Attachment 2**). Noted that themes around reduce paper/waste, transportation, and alternative energy were deemed highly important. Student volunteers will now provide further data analysis of the results. Survey results, along with the upcoming engagement workshops, are intended to form the basis of the 5-year Sustainability Strategic Plan. The sub-committee of PACS will meet with Joe Piwowar, Chair, U of R Strategic Planning Facilitation Team, to get a sense of the direction of the U of R’s Strategic Plan and how the Sustainability Strategic Plan may be incorporated into it. (Dr Piwowar will attend the next meeting of PACS in March).

PACS members are required to assist at the “Community Conversations to Advance UR Sustainability Initiatives” (**Attachment 3**) scheduled for 5 March and 13 March, 2014. Please contact Carol Reyda directly with your availability for those dates.

## 5. Update from the Chair

None.

## 6. Other Business

Roger Petry updated PACS members on upcoming RCE initiatives including 7 May 2014 – RCE Recognition Event taking place at Government House; RCE of the America’s – conference call on 31 January and a meeting of delegates at the end of July; and ECO Museums. Roger will provide PACS members with the Global Action Program for Educational Development report, along with his response to same.

Brooke provided survey results asking of students about their travel habits and attitudes (**Attachment 4**). She also noted that URSU is discussing car pooling and that a referendum of the UPass question is not likely to happen anytime soon.

## 7. Presentation – “Composting: A Sustainable Solution for the U of R’s Food Waste Disposal” – Jeeshan Ahmed, 4<sup>th</sup> year Environmental Engineering student joined the meeting. Jeeshan’s proposal presented options and associated costs for food waste disposal on campus. Jeeshan’s presentation was supported, and although nothing was promised, he was encouraged to continuing exploring options including possible partnerships with WCA, SIAST, and RQHR as a means to share costs and resources. (Carol Reyda has been in discussion with some of these groups and will share information with Jeeshan). It was suggested that Jeeshan meet with Dr Piwowar and the Strategic Planning and Facilitation Team – the Provost’s Office has forwarded Jeeshan’s contact information to Dr Piwowar.

PACS members may be interested in reading RPIRG’s Compost Feasibility Study Report available at <http://rpirg.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Composting-a-Sustainable-Solution-for-U-of-R.pdf>

## 8. ADJOURNMENT at 10:00 AM

**NEXT MEETING 26 March 2014 8:30 – 10:00 AM (AH 527)**

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### For future PACS discussion:

- Water Management – Nelson in coordination with Dena.
- Sustainability and its contribution to the policy renewal project. Carol Reyda will connect with Annette Revet.
- Sustainability Policy (Carol Reyda)
- Public transit and UPass for students and staff
- Bottled water and “junk” water on campus – what are the costs?
- Health/fitness of campus community as it impacts general health care usage and costs, as well as campus life, including working environment, stress, sick time: can the University lead the way in new thinking about the relationship between individuals’ health, a healthy working environment, and an affordable healthcare system?