
MEETING NOTES

Friday 30 January 2015 / 8:30 – 10:00 am / AH 527

MEMBERS	T Chase (Chair), L Benko, D Cherwaty, M Cho (<i>URSU</i>), J Dale, R Konecsni, N Okere (<i>sustainability intern</i>), C Reyda, S Wray (<i>GSA rep</i>), and S Young
GUESTS	F Dupré, C Korol
REGRETS	J Crivea, N Wagner, and D Zemlak

1. **Call to order at 8:30 am.**
2. **Agenda approved as received. Meeting notes of 28 November 2014 received without emendation.**
3. **Update from the Sustainability Coordinator**

The Regina Farmers' Market (RFM) has been at the University for three semesters but in December the RFM Board decided that they will not return in January 2015 despite commitment from vendors. This news is a disappointing loss for the University. C Reyda and N Okere met with the assistant manager to see why the decision was made and what we, as a University, might do to sustain future partnerships with such organizations. There were three main reasons for leaving: 1) A lack of produce throughout the year. RFM attendance increased during the months that offered fresh produce. RFM has found it difficult to find a greenhouse to support them during the months of January, February and March. 2) They found advertising difficult. 3) The RFM Board wanted to maintain consistency in what customers could expect from the markets. With the University's market being smaller than that of downtown RFM advised that they didn't want their brand to suffer. A few other items to note was the lack of easy parking and a space in the University that was easily accessible to the outside community (RFM hoped to see more of the outside community attend the U of R market). Having this information will be valuable to the U of R as we move forward with future partnerships with organizations such as RFM.

4. **Sustainability Strategic Plan Update**

C Reyda advised that two Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP) engagement sessions have been set up to review and discuss the Draft SSP. She asks PACS members to attend one of the two dates and encourages members to bring colleagues. The SSP sub-committee will present a PowerPoint presentation and ask attendees for feedback and to brainstorm ideas on how they think they can help. C Reyda has also been invited to speak at faculty meetings which will assist in getting this plan out there, bring ideas to light and get students interested. Please visit the sustainability website for more information:
<http://www.uregina.ca/fm/campus-sustainability/sustainability-strategic-plan.html>.

The SSP sub-committee would like to get this to Executive of Council as an information item in February. This would be of great interest to them as it touches every aspect of the University's Strategic Plan.

5. Definition of Sustainability

T Chase notes that the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan encompasses the Sustainability definition in a variety of ways. As the President is required to report on the plan's objectives, T Chase asked for committee members' assistance in developing an inventory of sustainability and providing options to enhance the four pillars ensuring the institution's longevity. He asked the committee to create a workable definition of sustainability.

Acknowledging that this definition is not going to satisfy everyone, T Chase asked the committee members to share commentary with one another through email so the committee can spend 30 minutes at the next meeting to work on the document. If there is a definition out there, with permission and acknowledgment, we can adapt it to suit our needs. C Reyda and S Wray will provide the committee with documents that might help members define sustainability. It may also be beneficial for the committee members to review the terms of reference to ensure the terms align with the new strategic plan and the definition aligns with both.

6. Sustainability and community engagement fund (Frédéric Dupré)

F Dupré from Institut français joined the meeting to give the committee an update on the sustainability and community engagement fund. He advised that they received higher interest in this project than expected and received 14 proposals awarding \$24k to nine projects. These projects will have significant short and long-term impacts on campus and will be showcased and displayed throughout campus this summer. F Dupré noted that having this kind of engagement and interest from students makes them aware of how the University is moving forward on sustainability.

The committee would like to see a plan highlighting the success and activity of these projects and F Dupré advised that this was something they talked to the project managers about and are expecting to see. F Dupré would like to see funding continue and advises that they would like to open up funding and expand the requests for funding to the private sector and nationally. He also advised that collaboration with external donors would help in the expansion of funding and networking.

7. Sustainability Metrics

The President also needs to report sustainability metrics to the board and C Reyda notes that that can happen by connecting to STARS. She advises that there are lots of people teaching sustainability and lots of research going on but no method of tracking it (until we can start entering it on STARS). She believes that having a sustainability definition will assist professors in recognizing that they may already be teaching and researching sustainability without realizing it.

D Cherwaty noted that this goes back to ensuring the sustainability definition is practical and based year-to-year knowing that the definition is ever-changing and will continue to shift. We need to highlight those areas that we are currently working on knowing that the metrics will alter.

8. Sustainability Policy

After discussion, there was consensus that creating a specific sustainability policy is not achievable but adding a sustainability section to each policy would be. The committee discussed having two sections added to each policy, one referring to sustainability and the other referring to indigenization. It is easier

to have these areas become action items rather than abiding by consequences and initiatives (which would be the case if a specific sustainability policy was created).

RCE update

L Benko gave an update on upcoming RCE events in Saskatoon.

9. Luther College – food waste management (Connie Korol)

C Korol talked about the successes Luther College has seen by making changes in their cafeteria. In the fall of 2012, Luther introduced trayless lunches, moved the location of utensils and desserts, and changed dish sizes and durability. They have since seen a reduction in food consumption, food waste, water and chemical waste (when washing dishes) and less dish breakage. C Korol advises that there hasn't been much push-back with introducing these changes and that it has since become the "norm" in the cafeteria. These small changes have improved sustainability for the Luther College cafeteria and they have seen at least a 20% reduction in costs.

The committee suggests that they showcase their successes by publishing their story (which has already been done on their FaceBook page) and talk with other food vendors on campus to share their successful ideas and suggestions (with Chartwells). These are big, important and well received changes!

10. ADJOURNMENT at 10:00 AM

NEXT MEETING 27 March 2015 8:30 – 10:00 AM (AH 527)
