

Agenda

Friday 31 March 2017 / 8:30 – 9:30 am / AH 527

AT	ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGES	LEAD
8:30	1	Welcome and call to order		
	2	Receipt of agenda and 27 January 2017 meeting notes	1-3	Chair
LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT				
8:40	3	Communications update		J Crivea, R Konecsni
8:50	4	AASHE Conference and Expo		R Konecsni
WASTE, ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION				
9:00	5	Coffee grounds recycling pilot program: update		E Groenendyk
OPERATIONS AND OTHER ISSUES				
9:10	6	PACS Report 2014 – 2016	4-8	All
9:20	7	PACS support: update from N. Okere	9	B Butz
9:25		Round table discussion U of S STARS rating		
9:30		Adjournment		



PACS 2016-17 meeting dates
26 May

Agendas close the preceding Thursday at 4 pm
Please send agenda items and supporting material to bryanna.butz@uregina.ca.

MEETING NOTES

27 January 2017 / 8:30 – 9:30 am / AH 527

MEMBERS T Chase (Chair), E Boyle (*for N Wagner*), D Cherwaty, J Crivea, J Dale, C Reyda, R Petry, A Rutko,

REGRETS R Khanam (*GSA rep*), R Konecni, N Okere (*PACS student support*), S Young (*Leave*)

1. Call to order at 8:30 am.
2. Agenda approved with the addition of one item: *Geothermal update*. Meeting notes of 25 November 2016 received without emendation.

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

3. Fair trade campus certification initiative: update

D Cherwaty met with B Welsh to further discuss the reality of becoming a Fair Trade Certified campus. The requirements are achievable but the cost increase may not be something the University Community is prepared for. PACS members agreed that full certification is pre-mature but certainly something to work toward. University vendors will be encouraged to offer fair trade options and the communications sub-committee will work on communicating the benefits of fair trade options. As fair trade options become more popular PACS will re-visit becoming a fully certified fair trade campus.

4. Communications campaign update

The communications sub-committee meets after each scheduled PACS meeting to discuss outcomes and various initiatives coming from the meetings. This sub-committee is actively using the Sustainability list serve and plans to continue to provide updates on Sustainability to the President for inclusion in her monthly emails to campus.

WASTE, ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

5. Reduction of paper coffee cups: potential campaign?

A Rutko advised members that the President of URSU approached Chartwells with the idea of offering student incentives (10% off their purchase or punch cards offering a free coffee) for using their own cups. The outcome of that conversation is not known and A Rutko will update PACS as information becomes available. Members discussed additional possibilities like working with the bookstore to offer UR coffee mugs at a discount and/or providing coffee mugs to new students as swag at orientation. J Crivea will discuss this possible campaign idea with the communications sub-committee.

6. Coffee grounds recycling pilot program

The coffee grounds recycling pilot project started this week and start-up expenses have been incurred. PACS agreed to cover those start-up costs using the funds from the sustainability community engagement fund. If this project is deemed successful the project team will explore how it will be funded on an ongoing basis.

The communications sub-committee will work with the project team and external relations to bring some profile to this sustainability initiative.

OPERATIONS AND OTHER ISSUES

7. PACS support: N Okere

Nwakaku Okere, past sustainability intern, has been hired part-time to provide support to PACS. Her primary duties are to organize and maintain the UR Sustainability email address, maintain an online presence through Facebook and Twitter, update the sustainability website with current and relevant information, and to work on announcing and supporting this year's SCEF.

N Okere brought to PACS attention an email regarding the amount of paper magazines being wasted. Numerous issues of *Degrees*, *Carillon*, *The Crow* etc. are being printed and not being read. Members discussed options around reduction and the communications sub-committee will work with URSU, UR Alumni, Journalism and other necessary partners to bring this sustainability initiative forward.

Funding for a permanent Sustainability Coordinator position will be requested in the 2017-18 budget. The Chair will keep the committee updated as necessary.

8. Indigenization representation on PACS

Members agree that at this point there is no real need to have permanent representation from the Office of Indigenization or the IAC but that an open invitation to join meetings still stands. J Crivea is a member of both PACS and the IAC and will continue to share necessary information between both groups.

9. Geothermal Update

A working committee has been created and the project continues to receive positive feedback. The cost of this project is high and the working committee is looking to industry for their interest and potential funding opportunities. J Dale and E Boyle will work with external relations to generate a story outlining the previous and current energy costs, the reduction that has already been seen and how geothermal energy can further reduce costs to this University.

10. ADJOURNMENT at 9:35 AM

NEXT MEETING 31 March 2017 8:30 – 10:00 AM (AH 527)



President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) Report 2014—2016

This report describes the major activities undertaken by the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) during the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2016.

“The intent of the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) is to support the vision of the Strategic Plan and help guide the University of Regina in ensuring that the best insight, knowledge, and leadership, as well as high ethical standards regarding sustainability, are brought to decisions around sustainability in the areas of operations, education, research, performance evaluation and community service.” *PACS Terms of Reference*

This report is organized according to the areas of focus in the University of Regina's Sustainability Strategic Plan.

Leadership

BE MINDFUL OF WHERE WE ARE GOING.... LEADERSHIP ON SUSTAINABILITY

Leadership is essential to transition the campus to a living lab model of sustainability and community engagement

Sustainability Strategic Plan

In 2012 PACS initiated the creation of a *U of R Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP)* and after much hard work and consultation the SSP sub-committee along with PACS presented the plan to the President for approval. In November 2015 the President endorsed the SSP and in January 2016 the *2015-2020 Sustainability Strategic Plan* was launched publicly.

The plan presents a vision and mission for sustainability with five strategic areas of focus (leadership, waste, energy, transportation, and communication and engagement).

Sustainability Policy

PACS determined that the Sustainability Policy would arise from the current *Sustainability Strategic Plan* and align with the University of Regina Strategic Plan, *peyak aski kikawinaw*.

Sustainability Metrics

The University of Regina is able to measure its broad institutional performance using STARS. As an official STARS Reporter, the University's results can be accessed publicly.

AASHE & STARS

The *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)* officially recognized the University of Regina as a *Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) Reporter* in November 2015. This certification is valid for three years and was awarded based on the U of R's accomplishments in campus sustainability. As an official Reporter, the University's results are publicly available on the STARS website.

Theme Years

The theme for 2014-2015 was Water but with the creation of the SSP, PACS had not been able to focus or promote this theme as intended.

Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development – Saskatchewan

U of R is a founding partner in RCE-SK (www.saskrce.ca). Several joint RCE-UR events were held in conjunctions with PACS including visits from other RCEs under the UN University initiative.

RCE-SK Recognition Awards

The RCE Saskatchewan Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Event recognized five projects from the University of Regina in 2015 and four in 2016 including the *Sustainability Strategic Plan* and *Sustainability and Community Engagement Fund (SCEF)*.

The role universities play globally is an important one and this event highlights the post-secondary education sector.

In May 2015 student Minsoo Cho represented RCE Saskatchewan at the official opening of Sejahtera Centre in the Asia-Pacific. Her representation generated recognition among international RCEs, formed a link for future projects and promoted sustainability initiatives.

Terms of Reference

PACS updated its Terms of Reference to ensure alignment with the University's Strategic Plan, *peyak aski kikawinaw*. These updates will be recommended to the President in Fall 2016.

Waste

BEING MINDFUL OF ALL WE USE...DECREASE WASTE

Waste in all its forms was the number one concern for students, faculty, and staff. Members of the community felt that reducing waste is the greatest opportunity for impact for the University of Regina.

Food Waste Management-Luther College

In Fall 2012 Luther College Cafeteria improved its sustainability footprint by changing dish sizes and durability, moving the location of utensils and desserts, and introducing trayless lunches. Along with cost reductions, Luther College has seen a reduction in food, water and chemical waste.

Professor Chris Yost, in collaboration with UR Team Compost and UR Engineering students, generated and submitted a plan and proposal on how to fund an in-vessel composter on campus and the benefits it would provide the University. They highlighted how the University would become a leader in waste reduction and sustainability.

Composting Project

In November 2015 third-year Biology student Atiyah Bagha presented on campus composting to PACS. She is part of an RPIRG working group on composting and challenged PACS to work with current students and faculty members to advance composting on our campus while reducing the amount of material taken to landfills.

Though the benefits of this idea are sound and certainly worthy, the University is not able to fund this initiative under the current budgetary constraints. In order to advance this initiative and plan, this group of individuals is actively planning to submit funding applications for various grants to assist with this project.

Energy

BEING MINDFUL OF HOW WE CONSUME ENERGY.... BE EFFICIENT, SUPPORT ALTERNATIVES

The challenge posed by climate change requires rethinking and retooling the manner in which the University makes decisions and provides opportunities for the University to explore alternative energy sources and practical applications. These include natural energy sources, such as wind, geothermal, and solar energy, which can be used directly for practical and applied uses on campus.

Print optimization project

During first five years of the project, the number of printer devices on campus were reduced from 1196 to 675 and this has saved

the University an estimated \$1.4M. The target number of devices on campus is 317 which, if reached, could bring potential savings of \$4.4M.

Renovations and Construction

Indigenization and sustainability are the main themes in the design of both the Kisik Towers and the College Avenue Campus Renewal.

The construction of the new residences, Kisik Towers, is now complete and the building was officially opened in September 2015.

Funds and Partnerships for the renovation of College Avenue campus, specifically the Darke Hall were confirmed in June 2016.

Geothermal Energy

PACS welcomed the idea of understanding more about geothermal energy. In May 2016 a group of experts presented PACS the advantages of geothermal energy and the benefits it could bring to the U of R.

Investing in Geothermal Energy would put the University on the map as the first and only university in Canada to run this type of energy. The long term benefits the University would garner are invaluable.

PACS asked that this group present to the President and Executive Team and begin exploring funding and partner opportunities.

Energy Management with SaskPower

In late 2015, the University of Regina Facilities Management partnered with SaskPower on energy management projects worth \$3M.

Over the next three years some of the various projects that will be worked on are:

- LED lighting;
- ventilation systems re-commissioning; and
- enhancements to FM's energy management information system.

Transportation

BEING MINDFUL OF HOW WE MOVE...SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

With thousands of people going to and from the University of Regina on a given day, the University is responsible for supporting and using sustainable, multi-modal forms of transportation. This will not only reduce our carbon footprint but will enable the University to serve as a role model for the wider community.

Universal Bus Pass

In September 2015 the Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) was approved first by the student body then by Regina City Council.

Beginning September 2016, students will receive a U-Pass allowing them city-wide transportation at a reduced rate. This initiative will significantly reduce environmental footprints, air pollution and will contribute to less congestion on campus.

Communication and Engagement

BEING MINDFUL OF HOW WE COMMUNICATE.... ENGAGE THE UNIVERSITY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Participants of the survey and consultation sessions consistently commented that

- *the University of Regina does great things that no one knows about.*
- *to change the culture, we need to celebrate and profile sustainability research, teaching, and action.*
- *the University of Regina needs to better engage with the wider community and illustrate how the University is a resource to help in solving community problems.*

It is the responsibility of every student, faculty and staff member to spread the word – of their own work and that of their colleagues and friends.

Regina Farmers' Market

In December 2015, the Board of the Regina Farmers' Market (RFM) decided to discontinue

their on-campus market despite commitment from vendors. The main reasons the RFM decided to discontinue this market was due to a

difficulty in advertising and maintaining a selection of fresh produce during the slower months. They also feared that their brand would suffer as they weren't able to maintain the consistency their customers expected of them. They hoped to see more of the outside community attend these markets and wondered if the lack of parking and accessibility played into the overall lack in popularity.

This feedback will become valuable information as the U of R looks into future partnerships with various organizations.

The Bee Box

The Bee Box highlights the importance of Bees and what they do for the environment. The Bee Box has been moved to the top floor of the Education Building.

Plant Health Care Model (PHCM)

The PHCM is an all-natural lawn-care model and is being used in some areas of campus as an alternative to pesticide and chemical fertilizer treatment. The goal of PHCM is to expand the research and determine if it is a feasible lawn care model for the entire campus.

This lawn-care model was expanded to include the Academic Green. Student Andres Palma, who assisted in the maintenance from mid-May to late-September 2015, reported that it has shown signs of improved health. This project has come in under budget, and received positive feedback. Palma recommends the continued expansion of this model on campus.

Open Educational Resources (OERs) and Open Text Books

In November 2014, the University began discussing OER and the potential it has to become a valuable support to the University community. OERs are any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or

introduced with an open licence. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them. OERs range from textbooks to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation.

In November 2015, the province of Saskatchewan provided \$250,000 over three years for the preparation of Open Text Books. The Open Text Books initiative is being coordinated through the University of Regina Press office, under the leadership of Bruce Walsh.

Sustainability and Community Engagement Fund (SCEF)

The SCEF has seen significant short and long-term impacts on campus and receives great interest from students and the University community.

In 2015 the SCEF awarded \$15,960 to five innovative projects on campus and in 2014, \$24,880 was distributed to nine. The SCEF continues to award funding to innovative sustainable projects and fosters positive impacts in our community.

Certificate in Sustainability

PACS unanimously endorsed the Certificate in Sustainability, Faculty of Arts, proposal as being congruent with the University's sustainability initiatives.

The certificate was approved by Senate in June 2016 and becomes effective Fall 2016.

Communications sub-committee

A sub-committee of PACS was formed to communicate campus sustainability initiatives, events, etc. and engage the campus in sustainability actions. This sub-committee is made up of PACS members, External Relations and Faculty.

Recommendations for Future Actions

- Sustainability Strategic Plan – Continue to focus on the Sustainability Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 and engage our campus.
- -- Carried over from 2012-2014 AR -- Discussion on the University's position on its carbon footprint and how to strategize and create solutions for staff travel.

Items from the 2012-2014 AR that I did not have information for

Car Share Program

People's Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education.

Financial

Sustainability Action and Awareness Month (SAAM)

Sustainability Support Position

Update on duties:

Organization of sustainability@uregina.ca inbox:

Organization of the inbox is finished. I am still monitoring the inbox for any comments or ideas that I think should be brought to the attention of PACS or other relevant parties.

Sustainability and Community Engagement Fund:

- Currently working with the Bryanna on reworking the fund and its guidelines.

Maintaining Online Presence:

- I am continuing to update the Facebook page with sustainability events around campus. Community members have begun to reach out through the Facebook page to ask us to post events and information.
- Updates to the Sustainability website are still ongoing. I have added new RCE webpage that provides some info on the RCE initiative and the RCE awards.

Miscellaneous:

- I met with the communications subcommittee to discuss effective ways to communicate the good things that are happening on campus and ways in which I and the subcommittee can work together.