
MEMBERS	d Gregory (Co-Chair), K McNutt (Co-Chair), B Butz (Resource), D Cherwaty, J Crivea, J Dale, R Konecsni, N Paskewitz, G Singh Lehal (<i>URSU rep</i>), N Tajik (<i>PACS student support</i>), S Young
GUESTS	S Bhat, <i>Research and Development Consultant</i> ; L Mitchell, <i>AVP (University Advancement & Communications)</i>
REGRETS	R Petry, K Bommavaram (<i>GSA rep</i>)

1. Welcome and call to order at 8:30 am

The Co-Chair introduced the new members, Ms Lisa Mitchell, AVP (University Advancement & Communications), and Dr Supriya Bhat, Research and Development Consultant with the VPR's Office. Agenda and meeting notes from 17 September 2020 received without emendation.

OPERATIONS AND OTHER ISSUES**2. 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan for Sustainability****Introduction of S Bhat**

Dr Supriya Bhat graduated with a PhD in biochemistry in 2017 and is passionate about environmental sustainability which she developed during her graduate studies. She has 12 peer reviewed publications in highly cited national and international journals, a government report, and over 25 communications in total resulting from oral and poster presentations to diverse national and international audiences. After her PhD, she received a highly competitive postdoctoral fellowship from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation. As a part of the fellowship, she led the major component of a multinational collaborative project involving Dr. Kathleen Alexander's group from Virginia Tech, Dr. Teddie Rahube's group from Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), and the Cameron lab at the U of R. At the end of the two year fellowship, Dr Chris Yost recruited Dr Bhat for a one year industry collaborative.

Dr Bhat has significant leadership experience in academia. She was invited to a round table on advancing women in STEM in Saskatchewan and nationally with the Minister of Advanced Education and Innovation Saskatchewan hosted by the VPR at the U of R. Dr Bhat has organized multiple Girl Guide Mentorship Programs as a part of EYES (Educating Youth in Engineering and Science) to encourage young women to pursue a career in STEM. She has been a volunteer for the past eight years at the Canadian Blood Services and four years at the Canadian Cancer Society where she actively assists in community awareness and education.

Dr Bhat has close to a decade of expertise in conducting environmental research, she is passionate and eager to apply her skills and expertise to her new role as the Research and Development Consultant at the U of R.

Review priorities: Continuation

The idea of creating a 5-year Action Plan that aligns with the U of R's current Strategic Plan, as opposed to a Sustainability Strategic Plan, was proposed to the Committee by Co-Chair K McNutt. PACS discussed this idea and agreed that it would provide the University specific focus areas and would allow for better engagement from our campus community. An Action

Plan would provide a more straightforward and concise way of measuring our successes and we could regularly report our goals and achievements while making the data easily accessible to campus. Though this idea is great, PACS agreed that it is also important to include and encourage big initiatives in this Plan. Small and easily measurable initiatives may discourage large and certainly attainable, initiatives, if we don't make room for them in the Plan. PACS also discussed the importance of building this Plan from the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for Sustainability Action Item table. Many of the existing Action Items can easily be incorporated or expanded on in the 2020 – 2025 Action Plan for Sustainability document.

PACS endorsed the idea and creation of a 2020 – 2025 Action Plan for Sustainability document.

Strategic Plan Consultation (Survey, Town Hall, etc.)

PACS discussed and agreed to consult our Campus Community by initiating a survey and by putting this Action plan for Sustainability on a UR Town Hall agenda, as they are very well attended, as well as an URSU Town Hall. Prior to consulting these groups, it is important that PACS, by way of S Bhat, prepare and frame what we have accomplished thus far and what we hope to accomplish going forward. Given the current pandemic, it is important that the Committee consider the impacts COVID-19 will have and has had, on our sustainability goals and that we build this into our framework.

S Bhat will lead a Working Group, composed of: D Cherwaty, J Dale (as available), R Konecsni, K McNutt, N Paskewitz, G Singh Lehal (or another student as determined) and L Mitchell as needed (for promotion/communication of outcomes). This Working Group is tasked with determining a consultation plan that involves ways to solicit community perspectives for this Action Plan. The idea is to be action oriented, only needing one or two meetings, and proposing a plan to PACS quickly.

Going forward, as a future initiative, the Committee briefly discussed challenging the University as a whole or individual faculties/units/departments on focus areas of the Action Plan as a way to fully engage our campus community.

Next Steps

The Working Group above will meet at the next Scheduled PACS meeting to create their Plan.

3. ADJOURNMENT at 11:00 am

NEXT MEETING: 8 OCTOBER 2020 1:00 – 1:45 PM (ZOOM)
