



Thursday October 22, 2020 / 3:15 – 4:00 pm / ZOOM

AT	ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGES	LEAD
3:15	1	Welcome and call to order. Receipt of agenda and September 24, 2020 meeting notes.	1-3	Co-Chairs
OPERATIONS AND OTHER ISSUES				
3:15	2	Membership: Addition of Neil Middlemiss, URSU Operations Manager		B Butz
3:20	3	Sustainability Month update		N Tajik
3:25	4	Action Plan Committee: Draft Terms of Reference	4	S Bhat
3:40	5	October 23 Town hall: Themes <i>*to be distributed the morning of October 22*</i>		S Bhat
4:00	6	Adjournment		



PACS 2020-21 meeting dates

17 & 24 Sep / 8 & 22 Oct / 5 & 19 Nov / 3 & 17 Dec /
7 & 21 Jan / 4 & 18 Feb / 4 & 18 Mar / 1, 15, & 29 Apr / 13 & 27 May / 17 Jun

Agendas close the preceding Friday at 4:00 pm

Please send agenda items and supporting material to bryanna.butz@uregina.ca.

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)

UofR Sustainability Action Plan

Terms of reference for the Action Plan Committee

Background: UofR governance is fully committed to achieving the University's overarching sustainability goals described in the UofR strategic plan. Smaller-scale, more readily achievable goals will help the UofR to take steps in the right direction. The current UofR sustainability portfolio consists of the PACS (President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability) co-chaired by the Vice President Research and the Provost. PACS will make the final recommendations to the President on the UofR sustainability strategies for 2020-2025. At its recent meeting held on Sept 24th, PACS decided to create a subcommittee; the action plan committee would provide guidance and assistance in developing sustainability strategies and implementation models.

Proposed composition of the Action Plan Committee

Supriya Bhat (coordinator)

Brett Dolter, Associate Professor, Economics

Courtney Stange, Sustainability and Climate Actions Officer, Office of the AVPR

Tanya Dahms, Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Hussameldin Ibrahim, Director, Clean Energy Technologies Research Institute

Moses Gordon, Director, Indigenous People's Health Research Centre

Main objectives of the Action Plan Committee

The action plan committee meets every two weeks to collaborate and communicate to develop recommendations to PACS on a sustainability action plan for the UofR. The committee's main objectives include;

- Provide technical and scientific advice on developing and implementing sustainable strategies at the University, including reducing carbon footprint, GHG emissions, water consumption, waste etc.
- Assist with implementing broader sustainability-related objectives including socio-cultural, EDI, Indigenous engagement, and community relations
- Address campus community's feedback and vision (collected through town halls and individual consultations) on sustainability and develop plans for implementation accordingly
- UofR as a living lab: Identify key areas on campus to pilot ways to achieve net zero emissions
- Identify short term, more readily-achievable sustainability action plans, recommending activities to help create a socially responsive, and more energy-efficient campus community
- Develop long-term sustainability goals for the University to reduce carbon footprint, energy consumption, and advance goals across the various domains of sustainability
- Make specific recommendations to the PACS committee on implementing short term and long-term sustainability goals
- Provide leadership in developing sustainability programs (certificates, degrees, and/or micro-credentials on campus)
- Provide guidance to prioritize research on clean energy, climate change mitigation, and other broader aspects of sustainability