
Annual Report 2011-2012

This report describes the major activities undertaken by PACS (President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability) during the period September 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

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.

- 3.2 As per the Terms of Reference, 3. Purpose (3.5) The Committee will act as ombudsmen on campus sustainability issues. In this capacity, it will provide an annual report to the University of Regina governing bodies (Board of Governors, Senate, and Council) and the University of Regina administration providing:
- i) a report of Committee's activities over the course of the previous year;
 - ii) an analysis of the University's progress towards campus sustainability, including commentary and analysis of the annual report of the Office of Sustainability; and
 - iii) suggestions regarding opportunities for action of the University of Regina in relation to campus sustainability issues.

1. Activities over the course of the year:

Promoted and supported a campus visit by Professor Geoff Scott, Executive Director Sustainability and Professor of Higher Education, University of Western Sydney, Australia. Dr Scott presented on issues related to sustainability such as "Improving academic standards, retention & institutional performance in higher education" and "Turnaround Leadership for Sustainability in Higher Education" to about 40-45 engaged participants on 16 January, 2012.

Met with the Vice-President (Research) on building sustainable platforms in research by maximizing resources, attracting external funding, integrating a variety of researchers and disciplines in new collaborative ways.

PACS supported the visit of Dr. Charles Hopkins, Senior Advisory to UNESCO's Educating for a Sustainable Future Working Group to the University of Regina on 21 March.

Met with the Registrar to discuss "Sustainability" as a degree designation

Met with representatives from the Regina Farmers Market to discuss the possibility of hosting a Farmers Market on Campus

2. Progress towards campus sustainability:

Discussed coordinated recycling efforts on campus with Chartwells, Facilities Management and Student Affairs Operations. It was suggested by Facilities Management that next steps involve a meeting of all service providers to improve upon current efforts – PACS supports this initiative.

Met with the City of Regina to discuss increased transit use to the University of Regina. The City is interested in participating in a working group that would include from the University – Human Resources, Administration (Parking Services), URSU and Residence representatives to discuss issues such as UPass (and UPass exemptions), smaller buses, extended service times etc. The City was encouraged to coordinate with Student Affairs around Welcome Week/Orientation with the possibility of offering free bus rides to introduce students to the bus.

Met with John Klein, President Regina Car Share Cooperative. PACS will continue to explore this initiative and will include the Manager, Parking and Transportation Services in any further discussions.

PACS has identified some specific sustainability initiatives for ongoing and future discussions such as campus food and drink, curricular development and inventory for courses touching on sustainability, College Avenue Campus, Online courses, Sustainability Awards, PACS webpage, Space allocation and computer labs, internship program, seed money for projects, Sustainable landscaping.

3. Recommendations for opportunities for action of the University of Regina in relation to campus sustainability issues:

PACS recommended the elimination of paper pay stubs. The last paper pay stubs were issued 31 March, 2012. “With approximately 30,000 paper pay stubs being printed annually, going paperless will provide savings in paper costs, printing costs, mailing, resources and equipment – K.Kummerfield (3/6/2012)”

Provided financial support for the Campus University-Community Garden Project – Project Launch 28 March. “The planned expanded gardens would involve external community partners, staff and students. Identified plots are in keeping with the Campus Master Plan. Start up costs for Phase I are \$7,300 which PACS have agreed to support – PACS minutes (1/16/2012)”.

PACS recommended that the Print Optimization Project and Facilities Management’s ongoing initiatives to limit energy consumption on campus be nominated for the RCE Saskatchewan Education for Sustainable Development Recognition event on June 7, 2012. The Print Optimization Project, as well as the President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability are 2012 RCE Recognition Award Recipients.

PACS recommended to the President that “Facilities Management and student groups work together to deploy another three water-filling stations around campus during the current calendar year”.

PACS recommended to the President that “the Campus move to ban bottled water by the end of the calendar year.”