



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE November 5, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:00 am Teams Meeting

Present: Leila Tjiang, Sustainability Commissioner
Jerico Raguindin, Sustainability Co-Chair
Ray DeSouza, Bursar and CAO
Vikas Mehta, Director Physical Plant - Chair
Lyndon Nobre, Director of Business and Ancillary Services
Shainiya Balachandran, Dean's Office
Alero Ogbeide, Dean's Office (alternate)

Recording Secretary: Véronique Morris, Physical Plant

Introduction:

Vikas Mehta initiated a round table introduction of all participants.

Ray de Souza mentioned that questions related to sustainability can be forwarded to him at any time. The Board is attuned to large sustainability initiatives and sustainability is a prime consideration in the strategic plan of the Board.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on February 27, 2020. Carried.

Project updates:

- **Vic Zero Project:** Leila Tjiang updated the Committee about the project that is one-year old. The project is entirely led by students and intends to formalize current initiatives and the plan for the next five years. Its report is divided into five sections and not finished yet. Leila Tjiang does not know who the report will be presented to? Vikas Mehta offered his assistance with the report if needed. Shainiya Balachandran congratulated the students on the report and offered assistance should the students want to share some of the sections with other student bodies. If students are interested they can email the office of the Dean of students and copy Shainiya.
- **Physical Plant:**
 - **Campus Facilities Energy Audit:** Vikas Mehta will request the Bursar for funding to conduct energy audits of our facilities, as our funding application was not approved by Natural Resources Canada; the audit will help the University create baselines for

energy use of our facilities. Physical Plant has received one proposal for \$150K and the project will have to go to tender as per procurement protocols.

- Sustainability web page: web page is live. More content will be added in the future such as energy audits. The Sustainability Committee will decide what material to post online and send it to the Communications unit. Communications will approve the material and post online. Leila Tjiang asked if the VUSAC sustainability web page can be linked to the Vic Sustainability page. Shainiya Balachandran noted that there should not be a direct link and to make sure to separate student initiatives.

Action: Vikas Mehta to consult with Communications.

- **Dean's Office:**

- Shainiya Balachandran informed the Committee that there are no building presidents presently due to reduced student operations.
- The return of the survey sent to building councils by the VUSAC Sustainability Committee has been delayed.
- One student is working with Food Services to support the dining hall to be more sustainable.

- **Ancillary Services:**

- Lyndon Nobre has been meeting with the student sustainability group on a monthly basis. Some of the initiatives taken are the use of tote bags resulting in the reduction of bags by 50%; the use of pizza bags instead of boxes resulting in the reduction of packaging cost.
- Food Services is working on streamlining their inventories and researching vendors with a sustainability mission with their menus.
- Food Services is working with Food Forward, a program that introduces plant-based menus and recipes.
- Lyndon Nobre has been working with the Dean's office to create a student initiative group.

Waste diversion initiatives in COVID

Vikas Mehta explained that the University is facing more challenges due to Covid-19 such as an uptick in garbage pickups due to no in-house dining; the central ventilation systems are working longer which will cost more; hand dryers in washrooms are out of service which results in the use of more paper towels.

Capital projects are still continuing. The replacement of the windows in lower Burwash House has been delayed to next summer due to Heritage approval from the City.

Comments and questions:

Leila Tjiang asked that there be more education in waste management in residences through the design of their own posters, which could be designed by any commission member. Vikas Mehta advised to keep the same signage as the one posted in Rowell Jackman Hall from City of Toronto. Students are welcome to send their posters; to be discussed further.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be scheduled some time in February 2021, time and place TBD.