

## Notes

### In Attendance

Don Alexander, Sacia Burton, Nadine Cruikshanks, Alan Cumbers, Graham Pike, Kim Sharpe, Warren Weir

### Regrets

Matt Bowes, Michael Carpenter, Connie Graham, Colleen McVeigh, Tracey Terepocki, Dave Twynam, Lynn Wytenbroek

### Recorder

Margot Croft

#### 1. Review of October 26, 2015 notes

Notes were approved as circulated.

#### 2. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved as presented.

#### 3. New Business

##### 3.1. Revised Endorsement Application review/Grant requirements

##### 3.1.1. Shortened Endorsement Application

This purpose of this application is endorsement, and, in its original form, is quite cumbersome and puts up potential barriers to application. The suggested shortened version is intended to streamline this application process.

It was noted that a request for initiative funding has been built into the FAS budget and awaits approval.

##### **DECISION**

To accept the shortened application form.

##### **ACTION**

Margot will put the revised version on the website.

### 3.1.2. Proposed revision of Curriculum Grant eligibility to include term / contract appointment eligibility

As there are a number of term/contract faculty appointments, the current stipulation that faculty be regular is quite limiting. It is suggested that those with term/contract appointments also be eligible to apply for the Curriculum Grant.

#### **DECISION**

It was decided that those with term/contract appointments also be eligible to apply for the Curriculum Grant.

#### **ACTION**

Margot will update the application and website.

## 4. Updates

### 4.1. Nadine C – Mural Proposal

Nadine has been in touch with Heather Pastro who is supportive of the project. Heather suggested being in contact with Scott Leaf (art technician). Nadine will speak further with Heather on Monday.

Project start is tentatively November 2016.

This proposal will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### 4.2. Connie G – Bicycle Pedal Power Station

#### ***Pedal-Powered Device Charging Station***

- Similar projects have been undertaken at Northern Arizona University, New York City, and UBC. NAU can be contacted for details at [Karin.wadsack@nau.edu](mailto:Karin.wadsack@nau.edu), UBC through their website/FB
- NAU project took ~ 1 year to plan and execute, cost ~ \$2900 US (~\$4050 CDN). Setup is a stationary bike with battery for storing energy generated and USB ports built in for charging. Partnership with electrical engineering students, computer science students, and cycling club.
- UBC project took ~ 1 year to plan and install. Tandem setup so that more power is generated if people work together.
- Contacted Chair of Electrician program Rick Heikkila, Chair of Welding Michael Hallam, Power Engineering Denis Coté, and Chair of Computing Science Huizhu Liu to see if they were interested or had students who would be.
- Popular Mechanics has online article that shows how to make a bike generator (would have to add device charging ports) [www.popularmechanics.com/technology/gadgets/how-to/a10245/pedal-power-how-to-build-a-bike-generator-16627209](http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/gadgets/how-to/a10245/pedal-power-how-to-build-a-bike-generator-16627209)
- Can buy one pre-made from a company in California called Rock the Bike ([www.rockthebike.com](http://www.rockthebike.com)) for ~\$3150 USD + shipping (~\$4400 CDN)

This proposal will be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### 4.3. Matt B – Interest-free bike loan

In discussion with Wendy Young the following points were outlined:

- VIU does have some experience in this area.
- Any interest-free loans provided by an employer result in a taxable benefit to the employee. *Basically it means that an amount is calculated (using CRA's prescribed interest rate) to estimate the value of the loan provided to the employee (essentially the interest that would have been charged if the loan wasn't interest free). This amount is added to the employee's T4 and the employee pays tax on it. Still a good deal but not totally 'free'.*
- The issue with the computer loan program is that it's labour intensive for the payroll department to administer.
- VIU's payroll system is quite old and cumbersome and requires a fair bit of manual processing to maintain so there is reluctance to add an additional complexity to this current system.

The request has been passed along to the Joanne Brocklebank (Associate Director Finance, Planning, and Reporting) to get her perspective around the capacity of the payroll department to run another program. When a response comes, it will be shared with the committee.

This proposal will be reviewed at the next meeting.

## 5. Curriculum Grant Application Update

### 5.1. Pedagogy for a Sustainable Future -- proponent will furnish specific expenses for this curriculum grant

Nadine is pursuing Sustainability Education professional development and intends to take part in an [Environmental Sustainability Roundtable at Trent University](#) in June (scroll down for more on this event), and to attend [a week-long intensive course put on by Earth Charter International in July](#).

The Committee indicated that the preference would be for Curriculum Grant funds to be used toward the Earth Charter Workshop (Education, Ethics, & Values for Sustainability: Transformative Teaching and Learning with the Earth Charter).

The possibility of an affiliation or partnership between VIU and Earth Charter was briefly discussed, and whether an institutional relationship or one specifically with the Education department be explored. It was noted that Earth Charter representatives may be willing to be part of a mini conference on Sustainability across the Curriculum.

#### **ACTION**

Nadine will

- send links to the committee about Earth Charter
- speak with the Earth Charter organization about partnerships and possible educational opportunities

## 6. Reports

### 6.1. [Summary of A Comparative Analysis of Vancouver Island University, Royal Roads University, and the University of Northern British Columbia](#) (Don A)

A summary of the above report was presented. The report's scope and suggestions for moving forward were noted.

### 6.2. STARS Gap Analysis Report

Prism Engineering was engaged to develop a STARS gap analysis, and in developing the report, they spoke with a number of VIU staff. Overall, there is a great deal going on in the area of sustainability, but it is uncoordinated and unrecognized, thus VIU is not building on areas that it could.

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is international and would provide a good baseline from which VIU could work. The human resource needed to develop the STARS report is a challenge.

It was suggested that as it is close to the next budget planning, a proposal for staffing from the committee be developed, and that it include links to STARS, student engagement with research, Indigenous knowledge, and international education.

#### **ACTION**

Alan and Margot will draw up a draft staffing proposal for the February meeting with further development to be done by the committee.

Steve Lane will be invited to a future meeting.

### 6.3. Sustainability initiative report (Margot)

Upcoming events include the Sustainability Forum (January 27), and Wacky Woolies Week (February 1-5). It was suggested that a special category for Wacky Woolies Week be for a hand-made in a developing country or other indigenous woolen wearable to tie in with International Development Week being held the same week.

#### ***Topics for February meeting***

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- Earth Charter partnership
- Exploration of best model for promotion of Sustainability across the Curriculum at VIU (Earth Charter model and/or Piedmont/Ponderosa model)

#### **Next meeting**

February 16, 2016 1-2:30

B305 R444