



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 27, 2025
9:30am to 11:00pm

Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, held via MS Teams, at
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

MINUTES

Present (voting): Catherine Tatarniuk (Co-Chair), Shelley Church (Co-Chair), Carmen Love, Dana Prymak, James Gordon, John Church, Kai Bauman, Niki Remesz, Robyn Hollas, Sarah Martin, Ted Gottfriedson

Present (non-voting): Anna Rogers, Natalie Yao

Guests: None

Regrets (voting): Amie Schellenberg, Baldev Pooni, Hardeep Chahal, Heather MacLeod, Poonam Poonam, Sesathya Nanayakkara

Regrets (non-voting): None

Recording Secretary: Teams Recorder/Lora Sartori

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The co-chair, Shelley Church, called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

Shelley Church welcomed new member, Dana Prymak.

2. Territorial Acknowledgment

Shelley Church delivered the territorial acknowledgement.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda of the ESAC meeting of March 27, 2025

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the agenda be adopted as circulated.*

4. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the ESAC meeting of February 27, 2025

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ESAC meeting of February 27, 2025 be approved as circulated.*

5. Presentations

None

6. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

a. For Discussion: Draft Composition of the TRU Park Working Group, James Gordon

- Need to develop a solid framework before we move forward with the working group.
- Two points to consider:
 1. Possibility of creating a park space on the Kamloops campus.
 2. How can TRU get involved with the BC and Canadian push to set aside 30% of land.
- Hopefully be able to report further at ESAC at the April or May meetings.

7. New Business

a. For approval: ESAC Terms of Reference, Shelley Church



ESAC ToR
redlined.docx



ESAC ToR
clean.docx

- The ESAC ToR, both redlined and clean versions, were circulated prior to the meeting.
- Shelley Church highlighted the changes proposed to the ToR.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that ESAC approve the ESAC Terms of Reference.*

b. For approval: Triennial Self Report, Shelley Church



ESAC Triennial Self Report redlined.doc

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that ESAC endorse the ESAC Triennial Review.*

8. Reports of Committees

a. Awards Sub-Committee, James Gordon

- 5 Awards: Environmental Sustainability Achievement Awards (1 Staff/Faculty, 2 Students), Tom Owen Environmental Sustainability Award (1 Student), Herbinlay Happy Planet Award (1 Student).
- The original deadline was March 24, 2025 and we received three nominations for three students and none for the staff/faculty award.
- The Awards subcommittee is seeing a new deadline of April 8, 2025 and have asked the Awards Office to confirm the new date.
- We encourage everyone to put forward nominations for these awards.

b. Zero-Waste Sub-Committee, Anna Rogers

- The subcommittee met on March 11.
- Focused on Waste Management presentation on tracking.
- In 2024, we achieved 80% waste diversion which is the highest we have ever achieved. TRU's goal is 95%.
- When we submit STARS, we can choose our best 12 consecutive months.
- Waste Management could present at the May ESAC meeting.

Action Item: Put Waste Management on the May ESAC Agenda.

- March 18 – 21 – Gathering our Voices Conference. 800 indigenous youth from across Canada attended at our campus.
- Worked to reduce waste and divert compost from meals.

- Will share weights when we receive them from Waste Management.
- Trash Bash is tentatively set for Thursday, May 15, 2025.
- Residence move-out will be happening again.
- Anna reviewing the construction on campus maps to try and mitigate any problems with waste removal.

c. Sustainable Purchasing Sub-Committee, James Gordon

- Purchasing Department and James met with Reeve Consulting to redo the Sustainable Purchasing Guide.
- Redoing the TRU Purchasing Policy which will incorporate sustainability in the new Policy.
- Waste Events: A guide is being produced by Kaitlyn Pietrusinski. She is creating a checklist with a zero-waste focus.
- Plan to present to event coordinators on campus.

Action Item: James will reach out to Michelle M to present at an ESAC meeting.

d. Core Theme Planning Sub-Committee, Shelley Church

- Need to change the name of this Committee as there are no more core themes as we are not part of the NWCCU.
- Catherine, James and Shelley attend the Mission Fulfillment Meeting once per week where all the four senate subcommittees that relate to the values of the Institution meet.
- In the process of determining new indicators and criteria which monitors and measures success against.
- Will be reviewing the previous indicators and criteria that was used to measure success relating to sustainability and there will be an opportunity to revisit and incorporate new indicators/criteria.
- For anyone interested, there is a Mission Fulfillment section on the Provost page on the website.

e. Biodiversity Sub-Committee, James Gordon/Shelley Church

- The Subcommittee met on March 20.
- Earth Day Event, Tuesday, April 22. Hoping to give out seeds, earth, pots and advice. Want to add information about supporting local pollinators.
- Hoping Stantec will partner with us again as they did last year to buy seeds.
- Event will take place on the basketball courts.
- Tree Mulching event today.
- April 10th a small tree planting event.

- Installing more feather friendly film to key windows around campus.
- BioBlitz event will take place in September.
- Taking photos of trees which will populate our Tree App.
- 3rd annual Bird Field School on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.
- First meeting of the Landscape Committee was on March 26, 2025.
- Gathering existing inventories of biodiversity on campus.
- City of Kamloops is doing a beach cleanup on April 13, 2025.

Action Item: James/Lora will send out a link.

f. TRU Sustainability Education in the Curriculum Sub-Committee, James Gordon

- The subcommittee met on March 12, 2025.
- Alexis Brown, Co-Chair, reported:
- Meet every two months.
- Kara Lefevre represents EnviroColab.
- Alexis represents the Sustainability Community of Practice.
- Anyone interested – it is about how to infuse sustainability in the curriculum.
- Amalgamating 3 terms of reference.
- Getting the word out to all faculty about getting involved.

9. Manager of Sustainability Programs Reports, James Gordon

- Welcome Roxane Kolle who is helping put together the STARS report.
- It is a pan institution effort and everyone will be notified on how they can get be involved.
- Town Hall happened for the next Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan on March 6, 2025. Had about 80 people attend.
- Working with Alex Turnbull from Prism Engineering.
- Fill out the [survey here](#)
- You can win a GC to Scratch.
- The posters will be in the foyer of the HOL.
- Deadline for Sustainability Research Grants closed on March 25. One faculty and one student has applied.
- 2 reports our office works on – Low Carbon Fuel Standard (Car Chargers) and Clean Government Reporting Tool (Natural Gas and Electricity, Fuel in vehicles, Office paper). Must submit by May 30, 2025.

10. Manager of Energy Projects Reports, Natalie Yao

- Phase I Campus Solarization – installation 95% done. Next step is commissioning.
- Hydro needs study done before they can commission.
- Commission date is the week of April 14.

- In the final stages of integrating all our building level utility meters to an online platform. The data will be in the Building Control System (BAS System).
- Implementation phase of the Building Control System optimization is happening at the Science and Gym Buildings. Plan to be completed during the summer.

11. Campus Infrastructure Report, Carmen Love

- Renovation requests are being deferred to manage budget constraints.
- Sustainability is embedded in all phases and implementing STARS in our planning.
- Campus demolition and tree removal projects are underway.
- Consulted with an arborist and the tree committee, however, 6 Ponderosa Pines behind future students that are infected with Western Gall Rust are being removed
- Relocating beach, fir and maple trees in front of Future Students to the IEC.
- Shut down House 1 and Future Students. TRUFA moving to OM and Future Students moved to HR.
- People in Culture now working from home until they move to the 3rd floor of the AB.
- House 4 and 5 will have suitable and safe space on campus.
- Tree removal sign at Future Student and House 1.
- Closure of Sk'lep trail from the roundabout.
- Roundabout southbound will be closed on Friday, March 28.
- IEC underway. Invitation to bid will be going out in 2 – 3 weeks.
- LCDES, lots of fencing.
- Advised contractors of smoking designated areas.
- BCOOL – Administrative Services Building – 3rd floor reno starts April 9 and will take approximately one month.
- Co-locating Bookstore and printshop.

12. Discussion

a. Kudos

- Consciously looking for good news items.
- Promote to the wider TRU Community.
- ESAC could have an item in The Connect or the CCTV about good news stories.

13. Correspondence

- a. None

14. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 9:30 via Teams

15. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 10:44.