

Green University Coordinating Committee

June 18, 2008

Meeting Notes

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Conference Centre 6-305

Attendees:

Allan Berezny, Executive Director, University Advancement

Dr. Annie Booth, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management

Rob van Adrichem, Director, Media and Public Relations

Dr. Balbinder Deo, Assistant Professor, Business

Godfrey Medhurst, Director, Campus Planning and Capital Projects

Dr. Jim Randall, Acting Provost and Acting President

Dr. Ron Thring, Acting Vice-Provost, Research and Graduate Programs

- D. Smyth pointed out that the UNBC experience is not unlike what other universities have experienced in the formative years of a green committee. Following example of UVic, she suggested a half-day, “open space” forum to bring focus to planning.
- A. Berezny agreed with Dr. McGill that authority is a big issue, as is dissemination to the broader community. Suggested that the committee should be concerned with macro issues and use sub-committees to translate these into actions.
- M. Thompson agreed with D. Smyth that engagement with the university community through a workshop would be useful. Referred to a report of the CUPE Green Committee (included with these minutes) that highlighted various key issues: budget, authority, and integration with the campus Master Plan.
- B. Deo suggested that there are a large number of faculty who have expertise in environmental issues and that effort should be placed on integrating the environment throughout the curriculum.
- A. Booth expressed frustration with the committee, suggesting that good intentions are the road to hell. While the committee has ignored the opportunity for engaging with the university community, it needs to decide whether it will play a leadership or coordinating role. Many faculty are cynical of the “Canada’s Green University” trademark and she contemplated getting off the committee a number of times because it has no purpose.
- J. Randall expressed his belief that the committee has served as a forum for thoughtful discussion and he didn’t think the university would be as far advanced on some of the green issues if it hadn’t been for the committee. Proposed the Space Allocation Committee as a model. Suggested that environmental issues could be embedded throughout the University’s teaching in much the same way that Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledge has been identified in the AVI.
- R. van Adrichem said that there are tw

- General discussion followed and it was suggested that D. Smyth will contact her UVic colleague to lead the workshop in late September.