



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING March 23, 2023 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, Copper Room

Present: Amy Mann, Sustainability Commissioner
Rebecca Muscant, Sustainability Co-Chair
Jerico Raguindin, General Student Representative
Boomba Nishikawa, General Student Representative
Jake Knight, Alternate Residence Building President
Lyndon Nobre, Director of Business and Ancillary Services
Shainiya Balachandran, Assistant Dean, Student Life, Dean's Office
Vikas Mehta, Executive Director Infrastructure and Sustainability – Chair

Absent: Ray DeSouza, Bursar and CAO
Selin Eda Sagnak, General Student Representative
Yashaar Daad, Burwash Hall Building President

Recording Secretary: Veronique Morris, Infrastructure and Sustainability

1. Attendance: Vikas Mehta initiated a round table introduction of all participants in attendance.
2. Minutes: on a motion by Lyndon Nobre, seconded by Rebecca Muscant, the minutes of the December 13, 2022 were approved. Carried.
3. Business arising from previous minutes
 - a. Compost bin pilot project in common areas in residences: Housekeeping collected minimum compost from Rowell Jackman Hall, Annesley Hall and Burwash Houses. Students on the Sustainability Committee offered to put up more posters in the residences and communicate with residence council presidents. List of locations have been forwarded to Dean's office. The bins are located in Annesley Hall 1st floor kitchen, Rowell Jackman Hall 1st floor recycling room and North House 1st floor common room.
 - b. Stickers on exterior bins: all bins have been re-labelled. Students are encouraged to inform I&S via Fiix when stickers are missing at <https://vicu.macmms.com/>.
4. Project updates
 - a. The geothermal (phase 2) testing is complete and senior leadership is reviewing the report; an announcement is expected soon.
 - b. Two electric vehicle charging stations have been installed in the parking of Rowell Jackman Hall; these are accessible only to monthly-term renters. I&S is planning to install more electric vehicle charging stations on campus.
 - c. Lyndon Nobre updated the Committee about the reusable take-out container program. With a current student engagement at 10%, starting September 2023, Food Services has decided to charge students who refuse to use non-reusable take-out containers. The deposit will remain. Rebecca Muscant asked if it would be possible to give the first



container to students when they move in and charge for the deposit for the second container. Jake Knight suggested including a pamphlet in the container explaining the program. The discussion about how to use reusable containers will be repeated during orientation.

Jerico Raguindin asked Lyndon Nobre what initiatives are planned in Ned's Café. Lyndon Nobre is looking into new packaging. Amy Mann noted how important it is to reduce the amount of plastic on campus.

Shainiya Balachandran asked the students to forward any interesting graphics about recycling.

5. New business/Comments

- a. The group discussed initiatives to reduce energy consumption such as reducing the temperature of hot water in the showers. Vikas Mehta informed the Committee that we are able to collect energy usage per building on a monthly basis and not per washroom as the washrooms are not sub-metered. The baseline to start this initiative is with full occupancy and we can start measuring energy consumption starting September 2023. Shainiya Balachandran mentioned having a student water conservation challenge amongst residences.

The Committee discussed how to best spend the savings coming out of these initiatives and agreed that the savings should be re-invested into sustainability projects. This will be discussed again at the next sustainability meeting. Vikas Mehta noted that there need to be on-going discussion and that creating pilot projects is a good way to quantify savings. Rebecca Muscant asked to obtain the energy use on campus; Vikas Mehta to discuss with senior leadership.

Vikas Mehta suggested composting in academic buildings in the future but not in exterior grounds where contamination risk is too high.

Jerico Raguindin proposed having a community garden; Amy Mann reminded the Committee that the previous community garden faced challenges as there are no students in the summer to care for it. Students are invited to send their proposals to the Dean's office; Food Services and I&S would like to be involved as well.

Amy Mann asked Lyndon Nobre about food waste management in the dining hall and liability issues. Lyndon Nobre responded that an external contractor comes to pick up the waste when there is a minimum amount to pick up.

Shainiya Balachandran informed the Committee that VCDS has emptied and cleared the prop room and recycled items with UFT.

Students discussed the success from clothing drives and clothing donations. Students are invited to advertise these events via the Communications office and the sustainability web page.

Vikas Mehta thanked all student members of the Committee for their participation throughout the past year and for bringing forward sustainability initiatives.

6. The next meeting will be scheduled for end of September or first week of October 2023.