

Thursday, March 19, 2020

6:00PM

Google Hangout

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Talia Dixon (chair)		Y	
David Konrad		Y	
Luke Statt (ex officio)		Y	
Kelsi-Leigh Balaban		Y	
Olivea Harris		N	
Alana Krahn		N	
Abigail Kohler		N	
Carter Gorzitza		Y	
International Student Vacancy		V	

MINUTES (SUSC 2019-07)

2019-07/1

INTRODUCTION

2019-07/1a

Call to Order

DIXON: Called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

2019-07/1b

Approval of Agenda

BALABAN/STATT MOVED to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2019-07/1c

Approval of Minutes

2019-07/1d

Chair's Business

DIXON: Inquired as to whether a member of the Committee can volunteer to review and edit the Committee's Standing Orders.

KONRAD: Determined to complete this task.

2019-07/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-07/2a

Finalizing Definition

DIXON: Identified that the proposed new draft definition of sustainability reads 'Sustainability is the process of living in reciprocal relationship with the environment, including all living and non-living entities and the systems they inhabit. In light of the climate crisis, sustainability efforts must recognize the environment's foundational role in human systems and will work towards countering these systems when oppressive. Aim to reach beyond campus as it affects not only students. And value treaties; respecting all treaty and non treaty people and their territories in treaty six and across Canada.'

STATT: Proposed removing the term 'non-living' as the term 'living' includes all entities associated with the natural world.

BALABAN: Considered that non-living entities can also exist within and play important roles in ecosystems.

KONRAD: Expressed concern that the use of the phrase 'will work' turns the definition of sustainability into a form of mission statement.

DIXON: Suggested that the definition make clear that sustainability is a moral imperative.

BALABAN: Suggested that the definition make clear that the sustainability efforts must extend beyond Campus as climate change and unsustainable development affect persons everywhere.

KONRAD: Suggested that it would be wise for the definition to state that persons now are accountable for future generations.

DIXON: Proposed, based on suggestions and discussions, that the new definition be amended to read 'Sustainability is the process of living in reciprocal relationship with the environment, including all living entities and the systems they inhabit. In light of the climate crisis, sustainability efforts must recognize the environment's foundational role in human systems and will work towards countering these systems when oppressive, particularly when they result in unjust and unequal damage to frontline communities. Working towards sustainability reaches beyond campus as sustainability affects not only students. Sustainability values treaties and recognizes the degradative actions of the settler state;

respecting all treaty and non-treaty people and their territories in treaty six and across Canada. While being accountable to future generations.' Determined to edit and reform this definition, in concert with Vice President Statt, for grammar and syntax while not changing its underlying ideas and principles.

2019-07/2b

Finalizing Plan for Committee Moving Forwards

DIXON: Expressed concern that, over the course of the term, the Committee never realized a complete membership. Outlined that the Google Document Sustainability Committee - Plan for Next Year describes the Committee's future mandate and workflow which involves identifying an issue, presenting a solution, and consulting on its development and implementation. Outlined that the Plan anticipates that the Committee will confirm the definition of sustainability and, using non-binding recommendations to the SU, advance environmental sustainability between May and September, social sustainability between October and February, and economic sustainability between February and March.

BALABAN: Supported the workflow described within the Plan.

KONRAD: Concurred.

STATT: Concurred. Expressed concern, however, that the SU may be limited in its ability to support economic sustainability due to its precarious financial position, resulting from the COVID 19 Pandemic.

DIXON: Determined to meet next week to further discuss and develop the Committee Plan.

2019-07/2c

Evaluating this Year to Improve for Next Year

DIXON: Proposed creating a set of sustainability learning resources for future members of the Committee. Suggested that these resources would help new members of the Committee jumpstart their work as they do not always come from sustainability backgrounds. Determined to identify and compile these resources.

BALABAN: Suggested that the resources should incorporate a variety of worldviews.

DIXON: Requested that the Committee as a whole find three to five examples sustainability projects which the Committee could advance.

2019-07/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-07/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2019-07/4a

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes (2019-06).

Minutes are not available, as a recording of the previous meeting was not provided

to the Administrative Clerk.

2019-07/5

ADJOURNMENT

2019-07/5a

Next Meeting: TBD.