



## MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING September 27, 2022, 11:00 am to 12:15 pm (Teams Meeting)

**Present:** Amy Mann, Sustainability Commissioner  
Rebecca Muscant, Sustainability Co-Chair  
Boomba Nishikawa, General Student Representative  
Yashaar Daad, Burwash Hall Building President  
Ray DeSouza, Bursar and CAO  
Vikas Mehta, Executive Director Infrastructure and Sustainability - Chair  
Lyndon Nobre, Director of Business and Ancillary Services  
Shainiya Balachandran, Assistant Dean, Student Life, Dean's Office

**Absent:** Jerico Raguindin, General Student Representative  
Jake Knight, Alternate Residence Building President  
Selin Eda Sagnak, General Student Representative

**Recording Secretary:** Véronique Morris, Infrastructure and Sustainability

### **Attendance:**

The meeting started with a round table introduction of all participants and a welcome to new committee members.

The Sustainability Commissioner reviewed the roles of both the Commissioner and Co-Chair to the new members such as advocating for sustainability and providing resources for students.

### **Review and approval of previous minutes:**

Motion to approve the minutes held on March 1, 2022 by Lyndon Nobre and seconded by Amy Mann. Carried

### **Business arising from previous meeting:**

Amy Mann asked about the status of take out containers. Lyndon Nobre confirmed that Food Services are using single-use compostable and biodegradable containers but that there are no compostable bins except for the organic compost located in the Burwash Dining Hall.

### **Project updates:**

Vikas Mehta reported on the following:

- Phase 2 of the geothermal energy study was conducted in July 2022 in MAH field where a hole 850-feet deep was drilled; the preliminary results of the study seem positive and the final study results will be presented to the Sustainability Committee when the final report becomes available.
- The mechanical and electrical design standards with sustainability metrics were completed; design standards to be published on the sustainability web page.



- The EJ Pratt chiller was installed and the new system is more energy efficient; the university is expecting an energy savings rebate within a couple of months.
- The sub-metering for the irrigation systems was completed in summer 2022; the baseline will start in spring 2023 as the university will take weekly readings and will be able to measure water usage. The mechanical and electrical systems sub-metering are part of the overall climate action plan.
- The replacement and refurbishment of the windows in Annesley Hall and Bowles Gandier was completed. Approval from Heritage was received for both projects and the university was able to restore the original exterior look with new windows in Annesley Hall.
- The next phase for the replacement of the windows in Nelles, Caven and First Houses is being scoped; the window restoration project for Burwash residences and Burwash Dining Hall will be an 8 to 10 year plan.
- The installation of additional bottle filling stations is ongoing and all drinking water stations at campus have been restored.
- The annual reports of sustainability initiatives have been posted on the Sustainability web site.

Yashaar Daad asked about the status of the Bowles Gandier washroom replacement. Vikas Mehta reported that this project is on-going and scheduled in Bowles Gandier to be completed in summer 2023.

Amy Mann asked how the university intends to measure efficiency and quantify emissions and how will this information be communicated across the university. Vikas Mehta responded that energy audits will be carried out and that the university's plan is to develop a road map for sub-metering as part of the climate action plan.

Rebecca Muscant asked whether the re-usable mug incentive program is still on-going. Lyndon Nobre confirmed the program is on-going at Ned's Café but not in the Burwash Dining Hall due to a safety issue and space limitation. Amy Mann asked about giving a discount to students who bring their mugs which Lyndon said is already in place. Ray DeSouza asked Shainiya Balachandran about the uptake on mugs being distributed to students each year. Shainiya mentioned that students usually take what they need and are encouraged to use their own mugs; re-usable mugs are not offered because they are expensive. Reminders are posted in the Burwash Dining Hall and in Ned's Café. This year water bottles and cutlery sets were giving away.

Amy Mann proposed implementing re-usable mugs to be cleaned by Food Services. Due to the volume of students Lyndon Nobre did not recommend this suggestion and said that Food Services prefer re-usable containers to re-usable mugs for now; this option can be re-considered in the future.

Yashaar Daad noted that the water bottle program works well but that students are not aware of the discount. A discussion followed about the best way to communicate the



message to students such as the Victoria Newsletter and social media. Amy Mann to follow up with VUSAC communication coordinator.

Ray DeSouza proposed to meet with Lyndon Nobre and Shainiya Balachandran to discuss how the University can communicate and promote incentives for Food Services sustainability initiatives. Shainiya mentioned *Res Random* posters distributed every Monday, the Victoria College Instagram account and the Victoria College bulletin board.

**New business:**

Amy Mann discussed the Vic Zero program with a focus on transparency, keeping track of the data and communicating the data to the students. Amy asked about how to implement sustainability education course similar to the Vic One stream. Vikas Mehta recommended reaching out to the Principal's office at Victoria College.

Amy Mann noted that the composting program in Annesley Hall was successful. Amy suggested having "ambassadors", from the VUSAC Commission, on each residence floor educate students. Vikas Mehta suggested choosing two or three floors first to continue pilot with full occupancy. Vikas to review logistics with housekeeping manager. Amy to send Vikas list of proposed locations.

Lyndon Nobre introduced the pilot project for re-usable takeout containers which will focus on entrées; small containers remain in place. The project will be launched in a couple of weeks at both the Burwash Dining Hall and Ned's Café where tickets will be handed out at the stations. Food Services are looking forward to the students' feedback.

Vikas Mehta reported on the development of the Vic-specific climate action plan which will include energy audits, hiring an environmental consultant and consultations with UfT. Amy Mann recommended involving students in the project and Ray DeSouza supported the recommendation. Amy recommended that Victoria University's climate action plan be more aggressive than that of UfT's and that the University try to do better on its own. Ray noted that UfT has a lot of resources and that Vic is aligned with UfT on sustainability initiatives. Vikas Mehta and Ray DeSouza meet on a quarterly basis with UfT leadership and will report to the Sustainability Committee as things progress.

**Comments and questions:**

Amy Mann suggested to increase the number of meetings. Vikas Mehta recommended this item be put on the next agenda for the December meeting.

Vikas Mehta thanked all members of the Committee for joining.

**Next meeting:** to be determined.