



## Sub-Committee on Environment (SCE)

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**Minutes of the meeting of  
Monday, April 19, 2010, 2:30 p.m.  
Office of Sustainability, Room 216, Ferrier Building, 840 Docteur Penfield Avenue**

### **Present:**

Bouchard, Christian, Manager, Waste Management Program for University Safety (EHS)  
Dumoulin, Jennifer (via conference call), representing Macdonald Campus Students' Society  
Knight, Maggie, Environmental Commissioner, representing SSMU  
Lague, Normand, representing IT Services  
Nicell, Jim, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services), Interim Chair

### **Guests:**

Fortune, Dennis, Sustainability Director, Sustainability Office  
Wyatt, Lilith, Sustainable Projects Fund Administrator, Sustainability Office  
Claire

### **Regrets:**

Mitchell, Matthew, PGSS representative (missed the meeting because of location change)  
Beech, Robin, Macdonald Campus academic staff member  
Bennett, Elena, McGill School of Environment academic staff member (on leave)  
Lechowicz, Martin, Member-at-Large, SCPD  
Pageau, Bill, Contracts Administrator, Food and Dining Services  
Pinto, Gabriela, Associate Director – Building Service, Grounds and Special Events, University Services

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved without changes.

#### **2. Introduction of Sustainability Projects Fund Administrator**

D. Fortune introduced Lilith Wyatt to the Committee.

#### **3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, March 15, 2010**

The minutes from the meeting were approved without changes.

### **BUSINESS ARISING**

#### **4. Review of SCE Terms of Reference and Composition (J. Nicell)**

A revised terms of reference based on the input of the group from the previous meeting was brought back for consideration. Overall observations:



- Discussion regarding who the committee reports through. Currently the committee reports through the Senate Committee on Physical Development.
- The Environmental Officer is the Steward of the Committee. The Steward would keep a record of decisions, publicize minutes, and be responsible for the scheduling meetings and maintaining the calendar of business.
- Meetings would be held in open session but the committee can hold meetings in confidential session.
- The composition of the committees was discussed. It was recommended that the committee could add additional members as necessary; the text should be revised to reflect this.
- The committee reached consensus on the following change: the 3 academic representatives can be specified as including “at least one from the downtown campus, the Macdonald campus and the McGill School of Environment. One academic member could represent more than one of these entities.”
- It was discussed that committee composition should include a delegate from Facilities Operations and Development (FOAD).
- It was made clear that input from student groups other than the committee members would be welcome. Maggie had comments regarding student involvement and offered to forward revised wording for Terms of Reference. The following wording was suggested by M. Knight and subsequently edited by J. Nicell:

### *“3. Frequency of Meetings and Calendar of Business*

The Committee shall meet at least six times each year. The Committee shall have a calendar of business, maintained by the Office of Sustainability, for the purpose of ensuring that meeting agendas address responsibilities as outlined in these terms of reference. The Office of Sustainability shall publicize the calendar of business and actively encourage the participation of diverse stakeholders in open session meetings of the Committee.”

- The revised Terms of Reference will be presented to the SCPD for approval at their next meeting in May.

## **5. Sustainability Projects Fund (D. Fortune)**

Thirty eight submissions have been made to-date and will be presented to the Sustainability Projects Fund Working Group for approval. This membership of the group was finalized but a date for its first meeting has not yet been finalized. Projects that received funding would be listed on the Office of Sustainability web page. It is anticipated that the working group would meet before the end of April to consider projects that require approval before the beginning of the summer.

## **STANDING REPORTS**

### **6. Macdonald Campus Environment Committee (MEC)**

On behalf of R. Beech, J. Dumoulin and D. Fortune gave a brief report on MEC activities.



- Faculty Meeting (April 16, 2010) - The Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has been considering a resolution on renewable energy sources for the heating and cooling supplied to Macdonald Campus. D. Fortune reported that the Faculty meeting was well attended (approximately 45 faculty members) and the motion was passed.
- MAC Environment Committee – The meeting was held on Wednesday April 7 at 2:30 pm. It was noted that the MAC Environment Committee web page should be up in the next couple of weeks. Also, John Abbott College (JAC) has a representative on the committee who brought up issues regarding landscaping for discussion. J. Nicell commented to J. Dumoulin that planting recommendations should go to University Services. JAC was looking into outdoor recycling bins but had made no change as of yet. Mr. Ryan Young – Councillor for the Town of St. Anne d Bellevue was interested in the whole town becoming a “Fair Trade” town and was pushing this initiative. He was interested in making a presentation to the Macdonald community.

## 7. SSMU Environment Committee

M. Knight provided an update about undergraduate student activities, including:

- Hiring on Environmental Commissioner to replace herself for next year. The other Environmental Commissioner (Toby Davine) would be returning.
- 12 volunteer positions associated with the SSMU Environment Committee were created this year and would continue next year.
- As a general observation, she believed the prominence of SSMU Environment Committee was growing.
- Defi Climate was more successful than last year. The final numbers would come later but were around 480 signed against target of 800. Despite undershooting the target, McGill is leading the other universities in numbers of people involved.
- Other items: 5-year plan report for this year. Tasks under the plan are associated with particular SSMU Executives currently and some changes may be required for the process to be more effective next year. The Commissioners will make recommendations to the Executive for consideration.
- Green events coordinator and Green Building Coordinator were hired this year. May get an additional person who will focus on policy issues.

## 8. PGSS Environment Committee (PGSSEC)

Mitchell, Matthew, PGSS representative missed the meeting because of the last minute location change and was unable to make a report.



## NEW BUSINESS

### 9. Greening of the Lower Campus (J.Nicell)

- **Surface Parking** - J. Nicell reported that 140 surface parking spaces will be removed and that the Lower Campus and McTavish Street would become a pedestrian friendly zone as of May 28<sup>th</sup>, which is just before convocation week. The James Square sculpture garden was near completion and should be ready by the same date. The campus has traditionally been closed for surface parking for convocation but this year parking will not return to lower campus. Entrance to the campus by vehicle will be restricted to emergency vehicles, service vehicles and vehicles for people with disabilities who require proximate parking. It is estimated that the university will incur a \$600,000 operating loss for removal of the surface parking. A special visitor parking area near the Wong Building will be available for those for whom special arrangements have been made in advance through Parking Services.
- **Master Plan Presentation** – J. Nicell will make a presentation to Mayor Tremblay and elected officials on Friday April 23 in an effort to further enlist support for the “Green McGill” project and other initiatives.
- **Pedestrianization of McTavish Street** - The street will be painted to demarcate seating pods that will be set up in the street area for emphasis of the pedestrian zone.
- **Deliveries** – Arrangements are to be addressed but, in the interim, deliveries are expected to occur before 11 am. While all issues have not yet been worked out, the long term vision will be developed over the summer.
- **Community consultation** – Such a major intervention on campus will, of course, create some inconveniences. Deliveries will be restricted. Permit holders will be moved. J. Nicell asked the committee to remember that 1100 people bring their cars to the campus, but 41,000 others do not. We will need to count on their support.
- **Main Gate** – The Roddick Gates will be closed to all traffic. Bollards will be installed and only pedestrians/cyclists allowed. Cyclists will be encouraged to walk their bikes. Milton Gate is being reviewed for additional use by vehicles being diverted from the Roddick Gates. **Signage** will go up to direct users to new arrangements.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 10. Sustainability Policy Update (J. Nicell)

The Sustainability Policy will go to Senate on April 28 for approval. The policy was presented to Senate last October 2009 for consideration. The Sustainability Policy will go to Building and Property Committee on May 4 for recommendation to the Board of Governors and to the Board a week or two later. The Sustainability



Policy was presented to the Provost group where there was some criticism of the content but, overall, concerns were addressed in the ensuing discussion. In the end the Provost gave the go ahead for the Sustainability Policy to advance to the approval stage.

Some minor word changes were made based on community input but J. Nicell stated the proposed wording is not substantially different from the draft presented to the SCE. Since Senate meetings are open for students to attend, M. Knight wondered whether students should be encouraged to attend. J. Nicell responded that there are already student Senators who could reasonably be expected to reflect the input of students on this issue.

The adoption of the proposed Sustainability Policy through all major levels of governance creates a sense of ownership for Senate, BPC and Board.

11. **Green Computing** – J. Nicell asked N. Lague as the IT Representative to report back to the Chair Environment Committee regarding “Green Computing” initiatives underway.

## **Announcements**

None

## **Pending**

12. **Workshops on curriculum change for students and academic champions (M. Knight)**

No report to make.

13. **Rethink planning workgroup (D. Fortune for K. Ng)**

There were no volunteers yet for planning the upcoming Rethink conference (i.e., generally, there would be at least one administrative staff member, one faculty member, and one student involved with programming). Given that the group had agreed that the Rethink conference should be moved to September there has been discussion with University Safety of having Rethink the Monday of Safety Week. Barbara Ouimet forwarded a suggestion that the Campus Community Cares program could align with the proposed outdoor event that Rethink was planning. This will be looked into.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.