Environmental Management Working Party

Notes of a meeting held on 17 April 2002

Present: Ken Piddington, Marganne Allen, Jeremy Callaghan, Hamish Rennie, Kate Kearins, Brennan Allen, Eric Crown, John Cameron

1. Ken expressed thanks to Jeremy for his direction and support to the Working Party during his time at the University. Ken also noted that a new Chair would be appointed for the group in the not too distant future.

2. Jeremy introduced the new Environmental Coordinator, Marganne Allen. Coordinator is officially part of Vice Chancellor’s office but will report to John at Facilities Management. Jeremy also asked that the Party review the Terms of Reference outlined for the Working Party.

3. The new EMWP representative from the Vice Chancellor’s Office will be Professor Richard Bedford, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research.

4. Ken introduced the new Environmental Officer from the Students Union, Eric Crown, and emphasized importance of student involvement.

5. Jeremy provided a wrap-up on the 2002 Waikato Lectures. Lectures were successful, with approximately 470 people attending the David Bellamy talk. Attendance at the Tauranga Campus was low. Jeremy suggested that a final thank you letter to all the speakers and Scott Gemmill for organizing the event would be appropriate. There was also discussion about how to make the 2002 Waikato Lectures available to a wider audience (i.e. would material lend itself to radio or television broadcast, posting notes on a website, publishing the proceedings, etc.). Ken noted that lectures occurred on initiative of the EMWP, particularly Jeremy.

   **Tasks:**
   - Send thank you letter to all speakers and Scott Gemmill for organizing event (Marganne).
   - Investigate opportunities to make 2002 Waikato Lectures more widely available (Marganne).

6. John recently attended two meetings, one on sustainability issues for facilities managers and the WEL Network “Cost and Sustainability” Seminar. Noted that sustainability issues in organizations are often given primarily to facilities managers and that building both intra- and inter-organizational support is critical. In particular, the University should focus on building relationships with the community.

   **Tasks:**
   - Bring further details about results of these sustainability meetings to the next EMWP meeting (John)

7. Ken reported on the progress of the environmental taxation study. Funding has been problematic, but will enter the second stage of the project upon successful funding acquisition. The second stage will entail production of a “roadmap” for environmental tax reform in New Zealand and development of a symposium on this topic (early 2003). Next elections may influence taxation “climate” and funding of this project: the National Party is emphasizing cutting taxes while the current
government is moving in the direction of carbon taxes. Ken also noted that there might be incentive taxes emerging to benefit “green” vehicles. Ken will also propose to taxation study members that treatment of environmental issues as an externality may be a fundamentally inappropriate means of addressing the issue.

8. Marganne provided the Party with a draft of both a review of the Party’s meeting notes over time and an outline for her plan of work. Marganne plans to be working on a baseline assessment of the University’s impacts while also seeing to the completion and implementation of projects in the area of transportation and waste management. She would also be completing other tasks according to priority. In general, the priority projects and tasks that emerged from the group discussion were:

**Priority Projects/Tasks for Environmental Coordinator**

- Baseline assessment of university impacts
- Transportation/parking:
  - Oversee completion and marketing of rideshare software
  - Market existing facilities for cars and alternative transportation
  - Investigate possibility of tie-in with campus health and fitness program to promote alternative transportation (walking, cycling, etc.)
- Waste:
  - Conduct waste audit (Tie in with Mark Wooley’s project)
  - Identify recycling opportunities
- Advertise 2002 ICE Awards
- Develop campus environmental website (Assistance from Management School via Kate)
  - Outline current university policy and research on genetic manipulation (concern raised by both Hamish and Eric)
  - Outline current classes and research with environmental topics ongoing at the university (Brennan)
- 2002 Symposium (Possible theme of transportation)
- Environmentally friendly building practices for university: Can a procedure or guidelines be developed? Investigate procedure used at Canterbury University for input into construction of computing facilities building. Timing this with any future campus building needs to be considered.

9. Other discussion and ideas focused on specific environmental issues for the university to consider:

Transportation and Parking:

- Only 6 spots are currently designated for carpools and these are grouped in one area. Additional carpool spaces, and spaces across campus (i.e. near Management) may provide incentive (Eric). Effectiveness and policing issues need to be considered with any changes in parking designation (John).
- Jeremy observed that developing relationships with other community groups might alleviate local congestion. For example, when the university gets the
rideshare software going, it could be promoted with local schools. As the university implements its own transportation programs and educates students and staff, opportunities will exist to market these to other businesses/agencies.

• “Greening” of the university fleet and incentives for students/staff using “green” vehicles should be investigated (Ken). Adopting “green” vehicles is likely to be more successful if the University collaborates with the City Council and other groups to ensure that the means of maintaining such vehicles is available. Ken will develop position paper for university on this topic.

Genetic Modification: This is a “hotspot” for both students and staff and needs to have immediate attention from website (Hamish and Eric).

Curriculum and Research: Making a summary of environmentally focused curriculum and research readily available would be beneficial (Brennan).

Other:
The success of the EMWP and the coordinator will rely on effective marketing of programs, particularly when there are successes to share (Karen). Marketing has been particularly problematic for the Student Union, with low turnout for voting and activities (Eric). Progress will need to be shown in two years to justify funding of coordinator position (John).