Environmental Policy Committee

Notes of a meeting held on 2 July 2004, 2:00pm

Present: Marganne Allen, John Cameron, Bruce Clarkson, Richard Bedford, Catherine Iremonger, David Hamilton, Brennan Allen

Purpose: Discussion of possible plan of action for progressing on University environmental report

Location: B Block Committee Room 1.19

1. Apologies. Kahu Nikora, WSU Environmental Officer
2. Last Meeting Notes: No items to bring forward
3. ICE Awards Update: Guidelines and submission form have been completed, no submissions to date.
4. Introduction of David Hamilton, Chairperson
5. Introduction of Catherine Iremonger, Maori representative.
6. Direction from VC regarding University sustainability report. David and Marganne met with Vice-Chancellor Gould to get further direction regarding the potential scope/intent of a University environmental report. A range of alternatives was presented, ranging from ISO 14000 certification to public Triple Bottom Line Reporting to a simple, internal white paper. Vice-Chancellor Gould is ultimately interested in including environmental and social variables in the University Annual Report, and desires for the Environmental Policy Committee to present options for seeing this come to fruition.

7. Discussion about moving forward on a sustainability report.
   • Proposed aiming for 2005 Annual Report as target.
   • Want to ensure that University doesn't get focused on reporting for the sake of reporting. Instead, we need to make sure that a report becomes part of a framework for how the University will make progress on environmental issues (i.e. becomes part of an environmental management system).
   • Focus groups to discuss environmental issues could be arranged throughout campus to establish what topics are most critical for different schools/divisions/interest groups.
   • Another resource: School of Science & Technology is undertaking effort to achieve New Zealand Chemical Industry Council’s (NZCIC) PRINCE accreditation (ensures compliances with New Zealand’s safety, health and environmental protection legislation and best practice).
   • Could be beneficial to establish framework of Waikato Management School (WMS) 499 reports targeting reporting recommendations for various divisions/schools on campus. Caution: This may provide only limited returns for Committee. Brennan found a recently completed 599 report focusing on TBL reporting recommendations for WMS did not provide as much useful feedback as desired (complicated topic for undergraduate student).

Action Item: Brennan and Marganne will consider potential framework for series of WMS 499/599 reports to assist University reporting effort.

• Waikato Management School is currently heading down the pathway of generating a Triple Bottom Line report for the School. Committee needs to stay abreast of progress on this, learn from their efforts, and ensure that WMS and Environmental Policy Committee reporting efforts compliment rather than compete or contradict one another.

Action Item: Brennan will keep Committee informed about WMS TBL effort.
• Engineering students will also be a future resource, as senior students will be required to complete a project with a sustainability focus.

• Committee will also have to consider if and how it can incorporate an analysis of how the University is progressing on meeting the goals of the Environmental Policy regarding incorporation of environmental issues into curriculum and research. One example framework for this could be the Gray Pinstripes Report, an effort undertaken by the Aspen Institute and World Resources Institute to assess the progress of business schools on sustainability matters.

9. **Committee Rules of Procedure and terms of appointment.** The R&P’s direct that Committee members serve for three-year terms. Many Committee members have already served longer than this term. Vice-Chancellor’s office desires that each member have a term specified for the Directory of Committees and Rules of Procedure. The following establishes the ending service date for Committee members (members can of course resign before this time):

- Richard Bedford (to July 2005)
- Brennan Allen (to July 2006)
- Bruce Clarkson (to July 2007)
- John Cameron (to July 2006)
- David Hamilton (to May 2007)
- Catherine Iremonger (to May 2007)

10. Other comments:

- Hamilton City Council is accepting submission on wastewater disposal plan. Biology Department is planning to make a submission.

  **Action Item:** Marganne will investigate potential for Facilities Management Division to make a submission, in consultation with Bruce and Biology Department.

- Horseshoe Lake proposal has been accepted by Hamilton City Council (project to rehabilitate peat lake and surroundings).

**Next meeting date to be scheduled September 2004**