Environmental Policy Committee

Notes of a meeting held on 25 February 2004

Present: Bryan Gould (Vice-Chancellor) Marganne Allen, Brennan Allen, Potaua Biasiny-Tule (for WSU Environmental Officer), Richard Bedford, John Cameron, Bruce Clarkson

Purpose: Discussion of University’s public commitment to environmental/sustainability issues versus implementation of programs/steps to improve University performance on these issues.

Location: Facilities Management Division meeting room

1. Apologies. None
2. Sustainability Commitments versus Performance

University of Waikato is poising itself with a potentially high public profile with regards to its commitment to sustainability, particularly through efforts of the Waikato Management School and other areas on campus. Further commitment has been established with the incorporation of “sustainability” into the University Charter and by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the local Waikato Sustainability Forum. This opens the University to scrutiny on its performance on sustainability matters and public suspicion of “greenwashing.” There is a significant need to ensure that University of Waikato is not just talking the talk of sustainability, but walking the walk.

A number of efforts are underway around campus including energy efficiency and recycling through Facilities Management and significant ongoing environmental research and teaching in a number of schools on campus. There are also a number of cases where University staff are directly involved with community improvement and education programmes. Furthermore, the Initiatives to Improve the Campus Environment (ICE) Award has been available yearly since 1999 to fund environmental efforts. These efforts, however, are not summarized in a readily available form.

Action Item: An inventory of existing efforts in the area of sustainability needs to be compiled for the University. This should include “physical” programmes such as recycling or energy efficiency and academic and research programmes.

- Put Vice-Chancellor’s request for summary information on Management Forum Agenda (26 March): Marganne & Richard
- Outline of requested information: Marganne
- Completion of summary: Division Directors and Deans

3. Environmental Policy Committee Appointments:

The former Environmental Management Working Party is taking a new form as the Environmental Policy Committee. The Rules and Procedures call for six appointments by the Vice-Chancellor including the Chair, two appointments in...
consultation with the director of Facilities Management and the Pro-Vice Chancellor Maori, and three general appointments. The Student Union President makes one other appointment.

Currently, the Chair and Pro-Vice Chancellor positions are vacant. Several candidates for the Chair position were discussed. The Vice-Chancellor’s office is considering moving the responsibilities of the now-defunct Site Committee into the Capital Development Committee (CDC). It may be desirable to have the Chair of the Environmental Policy Committee serve on the CDC as well, which may add significantly to the responsibilities of this position.

**Action Item:**
- Chair Appointment (ideally before Senior Management Forum 26 March): **Bryan Gould, Vice-Chancellor**
- One Appointment in consultation with Pro Vice-Chancellor Maori: **Bryan Gould, Vice-Chancellor**

4. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Waikato Sustainability Forum

Committee was briefed about MOU with the Forum as signed by the Chancellor in December 2003. (MOU was provided to Committee via email on 25 February 2004, and website address to Forum [www.sustainwaikato.org.nz](http://www.sustainwaikato.org.nz))

5. Initiatives to Improve the Campus Environment (ICE) Award

**Action Item:**
Conditions for submitting proposals for ICE Award will be clarified before advertising A Semester 2004: **Marganne**