
Sustainability Committee

4 August 2021: 11:00 - 13:00 Hour

APPROVED MINUTES

| In Attendance | |
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| Philippa Lloyd (PL) Chair | Vice Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) |
| Ian McManus (IM) Vice Chair | Director of Estates, Facilities and Capital Development |
| Philip Tamuno (PT) | Head of Sustainability, Estates and Facilities |
| Bronwen Eastaugh (BE) | Student Engagement Manager, Students' Union |
| Rebecca Jones (RJ) | Director of Health and Safety |
| Martin Donkin (MD) | Points Based Immigration Compliance Officer |
| Emily Burns (EB) | Director of The Centre for Public Engagement |
| Kate Heppell (KH) | Professor of Physical Geography, School of Geography |
| Mike Digby (MD) | Head of Security and Emergency Planning, Estates and Facilities |
| Bahar Shahin (BS) | Deputy Director of Procurement, Finance |
| Ramsay Richmond (RR) | Executive Manager, Innovation and Enterprise Unit |
| Dimi Sopisz (DS) | Grounds and Gardens Supervisor, Estates and Facilities |
| Thomas Stockton (TS) | Sustainability Coordinator, Students' Union |
| Michelle Lockwood (ML) | Business Development Manager, Malta Campus |
| Sadhvi Dar (SD) | Senior Lecturer in Senior Lecturer in Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics |
| Kalpana Chaturvedi (KC) | Assistant Director, Business Development, Innovation and Enterprise Unit |
| Scott Keeble (SK) | Assistant Facilities Manager |
| Panny Martin (PM) | Head of Directorate Support, Estates and Facilities |
| Kate Thornton (KT) | Technical Resources Manager |
| Sophie Harris (SH) | Assistant HR Director of Organisational Effectiveness |
| Thomas King (TK) | Assistant Director, Research IT Services |
| Shamima Akter (SA) | Students' Union President |
| Hannah Drinkwater (HD) | Finance Partner, Estates and Facilities |
| James Bradley (JB) | Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science |
| Mike Wojcik (MW) | Chief Executive, Students' Union |
| Ciaran Donnelly (CD) | Library Supervisor, Environment, Library Services |

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| Martin Sharp (MS) | Data Analyst, Institute of Health Sciences Education |
| Valdas Noreika (VN) | Lecturer in Psychology, Biological and Chemical Sciences |
| Stephen Taylor (ST) | Senior Lecturer in Human Geography |
| Greg Chass (GC) | Reader in Computational Chemistry |
| James Whitton (JW) | Interim Director of Operations, Institute of Health Sciences Education |
| Justin Agius (JA) | Institute of Health Sciences Education |
| David Collier (DC) | Business Development Manager (Health), Innovation and Enterprise Unit |
| Secretary | |
| Liudmyla Pasichnichenko (LP) | Sustainability and Energy Manager |
| Apologies | |
| Peter Guy (PG) | Security and Business Continuity, Estates and Facilities |
| Richard Halsall (RH) | Assistant Director Capital Development, Estates and Facilities |
| Garry Pritchard (GP) | Assistant Director Operations, Estates and Facilities |
| Nick Davie (ND) | Assistant Director Property and Space Management, Estates and Facilities |
| John Iveson (JI) | Assistant Director Commercial Services, Estates and Facilities |
| Agnieszka Jankowska (AJ) | Relationship Manager, Student Experience, IT Services |
| Andrew Gladin (AG) | Deputy Director of Finance |
| Clare Relton (CR) | Senior Lecturer in Clinical Trials, Blizzard Institute |
| Claire Marchant (CM) | Operations Manager, Estates and Facilities |
| Kristian Hibberd (KHi) | Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications |
| Rebecca Bates (RB) | Lecturer in Environmental Law, School of Law |
| Caterina Gennaioli (CG) | Senior Lecturer Environmental Economics |
| Stephen Borthwick (SB) | Operations Manager, Estates and Facilities |
| Matt Harnett (MH) | Head of Content & Brand, Marketing and Communications |

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| 1. Apologies | |
| 2021.109 | As above |
| 1.1 Declarations of Interest | |
| 2021.110 | There were no declarations of interest |
| 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting | |
| 2021.111 | No amendments |
| OUTCOME | Minutes approved |
| 3. Action Log & Matters Arising | |
| 2021.112 | Updates were provided on outstanding actions from previous meetings |
| 4. Terms of Reference (SC.21/32) | |

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| 2021.113 | <p>The Head of Sustainability reported that we have updated the Sustainability Committee's (SC) Terms of Reference for the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining the membership of this governance group • Ensuring that all relevant stakeholders and interested parties are represented in the membership of this governance group • Ensuring effective governance of the delivery of our environmental sustainability objectives • The inclusion of management review of our Environmental Management System (EMS) as one of the responsibilities of this governance group • Ensuring that we have a robust governance structure that supports the delivery of our commitment to attain ISO 14001:2015 certification by July 2022 |
| 2021.114 | The Chair mentioned that Fernando Barrio should be invited to be a member of the Sustainability Committee. |
| 2021.115 | The Vice Chair stated that all members of the Sustainability Committee should promote the benefits of good environmental practices and explore innovation to support the delivery of our environmental sustainability objectives. |
| ACTION | Terms of Reference will be presented at the next ESB meeting |
| 5. Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) | |
| 5a. | Environmental Management System: EcoCampus Gold Certification Audit (SC.21/33) |
| 2021.116 | <p>The Head of Sustainability reported that Queen Mary has successfully achieved the EcoCampus Environmental Management System (EMS) Gold Certification Award after a full-day external environmental audit conducted on 8 July 2021. This is our third external EMS certification since December 2020.</p> <p>The Head of Sustainability expressed his gratitude to all colleagues that are actively involved in supporting the implementation of our EMS. Without this support we would not have been able to attain EcoCampus Gold EMS certification within such a short period.</p> <p>This full-day external environmental audit covered the following areas: Gold Environmental Management System Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Compliance Obligations Register • Roles and Responsibilities Register (including staff training records) • Communication and Awareness (internal and external communications) • Emergency Response and Preparedness Procedures |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Control Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazardous Waste Management (including storage and disposal of hazardous wastes and consignment notes) ○ Non-hazardous Waste Management (including waste management facilities and duty of care notes) ○ Discharges to Water Procedure ○ Emergency Spill Response Procedure ○ Emissions to Air Procedure ○ Contractor Control Procedure ○ Construction and Refurbishment Procedure ○ Energy Management Procedure (including operational control: energy; water and carbon reduction) ○ Heating, Ventilation and Air Condition (HVAC) and F-Gas Regulations (F-gas maintenance and leak testing records, equipment asset register, training records for maintenance engineers) |
| 2021.117 | The Head of Sustainability commented that attaining this EMS certification demonstrates that we are at an advanced stage towards attaining our commitment to attain ISO 14001:2015 by July 2022 and it aligns with our commitment to continue to improve our environmental performance |
| 2021.118 | The Chair stated that the recommendations from this audit should be included in the action log and assurance should be provided that these recommendations have been addressed |
| ACTION | The recommendations from this audit should be added to the action log. |
| 5.b | ESAP: 2020/21 Review and 2021/22 Insight (SC.21/34) |
| 2021.119 | The Head of Sustainability stated that our Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) 2020-2023 was developed as part of our immediate response to these global environmental risks and commitment to embed good environmental practices across all areas of our operation. |
| 2021.120 | The Vice Chair remarked that we aim to introduce free car charging on campus by the start of the 2022/2023 academic year |
| ACTION | Car park charges will be explored for our Mile End from the 2022/23 academic year (JI) |
| 6. Teaching and Research | |
| 6a. | Embedding Sustainable Development into the Curriculum: School of Geography |

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| 2021.121 | <p>Kate Heppell and Stephen Taylor presented to the committee on how they teach sustainability within the Geography department for first, second- and third-years students.</p> <p>The students in Geography are studying a few different programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Geography • Environmental Science • Environmental Science with Business Management <p>The first-year modules cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history of sustainability • UN Sustainable Development goals • Different sustainability themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water ○ Agriculture ○ Food ○ Energy ○ Citizen Science <p>The second-year courses covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living laboratory concept • Environmental research methods (starts 2021/2022 year) <p>The third-year modules cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature based climate solutions • Environmental pollution |
| 2021.122 | KH suggested that sustainability priorities should be included into specifications during our food and catering procurement processes |
| OUTCOME | The committee thanked Kate Heppell and Stephen Taylor for their presentation and asked for the recommendations arising from her projects to be shared with the sustainability Committee. |
| ACTION | Head of Catering Services should be informed of this proposal and he should be asked to provide an update on the operational delivery of this proposal |
| 6b. | Ecological Awareness among Religious Communities |
| 2021.123 | Valdas Noreika delivered a presentation on Ecological Awareness among Religious Communities. |

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| | <p>VN started with an overview of research in environmental psychology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental influences on human behaviour and mental wellbeing • Individual differences influencing environmental behaviour • Encouraging pro-environmental behaviour <p>VN stated that between 1990-2018, only 0.12% of research funding was directed to mitigate climate-change and facilitate energy-transition.</p> <p>Then VN presented a study How religious communities and identities relate to environmental beliefs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do Christians, Muslims and atheists compare in their views towards the environment? • Online data collection from 300 participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100 Atheists ○ 100 Christians ○ 100 Muslims <p>50 males and 50 females in each group</p> <p>They have found that religious fundamentalism negatively predicts ecological beliefs. Religious fundamentalism: Atheists < Christians < Muslims</p> <p>VN is in discussion with the Muslim Society to apply for the collaborative PhD studentship under the London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (LISS-DTP) to study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What psychological factors underlie the link between scriptural literalism and ecological disbelief among British Muslims? • What psychological/theological interventions could increase environmental awareness among British Muslims? |
| OUTCOME | The committee thanked VN for his presentation and asked him to keep the committee informed with any updates. |
| 6c. | Towards Sustainable Research Culture: International Partnership in Carbon Usage and Infrastructure |
| 2021.124 | <p>Greg Chass (GC) delivered a presentation entitled 'Towards Sustainable Research Culture.'</p> <p>The overview of GC's presentation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate sustainability into research & activities in S&E, SMD, HSS, and beyond |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join projects & funding spanning sustainability unit & research – initiate case study • Longer-term: sustainability in the curriculum in SPCS, across S&E and beyond <p>Then GC summarised his current research in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cement functionality & durability. Medical and Dental cement. The United Nations Environmental program (UNEP) reported that the dental sector uses about 340 tons of mercury in dental amalgams each year. It is estimated that 100 tons of dental mercury enters the waste stream annually. • The most promising alternative to Hg-amalgams is GICs. The main reasons for continued use of Hg-amalgams are cost and lack of knowledge on the GICs and GICs used remain too brittle. • Cement functionality & durability. Concrete & infrastructure (unsustainable) <p>Summary of the conclusions and recommendations of GC’s presentation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide scope to projects will advantage their sustainability and impact • ISO standards and project-lifecycles must be included • Partnership w/industry & and academic partners. |
| OUTCOME | The committee thanked GC for his presentation and asked to keep the committee informed on the progress of these initiatives |
| 7. Embedding Good Environmental Practices | |
| 7a. | Biodiversity Enhancement (SC.21/35) |
| 2021.125 | <p>Dimi Sopisz (DS) gave an update on the Biodiversity Enhancement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to encourage biodiversity on Mile End Campus • We have recently implemented a “Seed Giveaway” initiative at our Charterhouse Square and Whitechapel campuses. We are also developing a roof gardens at the Department W. • We are currently developing our Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). This plan will set out our long-term biodiversity commitment. |
| ACTION | The draft of the BAP will be presented at the scheduled October 2021 meeting of the Sustainability Committee |
| 8. Energy Management and Energy Procurement | |
| 8a. Building Energy Performance: Update (SC.21/36) | |

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| 2021.125 | <p>The Head of Sustainability gave an update on the Building Energy Performance based on the energy we used between August 2020 and June 2021. We are in line to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve a 10.3% (3,544 MWh) reduction in electricity used compared to budget, with associated £593,483 budget underspend. This underspend are from the lower than budgeted electricity used (COVID-19 factor) and savings from our current energy contract • End the year at a 16.9% (4,984 MWh) higher than budget gas; however, with a £91,455 underspend due to the savings from our current energy contract |
| ACTION | To prepare the Environmental Sustainability Annual report by January 2022 |
| 8b. Energy Procurement Strategy 2021-23 (Outcome) (SC.21/37) | |
| 2021.126 | <p>The Head of Sustainability gave an overview of where energy prices are and mentioned that associated market indices such as Oil, Coal and Carbon have significantly risen since October 2020.</p> <p>For example, average wholesale power (electricity) and gas prices increased from approximately £40/MWh to £70/MWh and 36p/therm to 65p/therm respectively (between October 2020 and July 2021).</p> <p>In addition, the price increases that have been recorded between October 2020 and July 2021 on oil, coal and carbon are as shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil: From \$43/bbl to \$76/bbl • Coal: From \$58.6/tonne to \$88.2/tonne • Carbon: From €24.9/CO₂ to €57.5/CO₂ <p>The Head of Sustainability outlined that our main priority is to reduce energy consumption.</p> |
| ACTION | The new contract will be presented at the scheduled October 2021 Sustainability Committee meeting (BS) |
| Date of next meeting: 25 October 2021 | |