SUSTAINABILITY REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK MEETING
Tuesday 11 March 2014 10.00am-1.00pm
Senate Room, Lincoln Building

MINUTES


1. Welcome

Cindy welcomed SRN members to the meeting and outlined the agenda of the meeting.

2. Sustainability Focus for 2014 - Cindy Cunningham, Sustainability Engagement Officer

The Sustainability Engagement Officer provided an overview of some of the projects and initiatives that the team will be working on this year. These include:

- Rolling out new quarterly sustainability themes and on-line resources for ‘M-power’
- Launching the ‘Tap It – It’s Fresh and Free’ campaign on campus which promotes avoiding bottled water and using the tap to refill
- Developing a mobile campus sustainability tour app to promote sustainability initiatives and features at Macquarie University through interactive media
- Implementing Phase 1 of a new permaculture garden at Y1A
- Trialing a weekly fresh produce stall in the central courtyard through Harvest Hub and establishing hubs around campus to give students and staff access to food co-ops
- Engaging students in colleges around the ways around energy efficiency through the 10 Ways to Save energy Campaign
- Continued rollout of the Learning & Teaching in Sustainability Framework to Faculty of Arts undergraduate unit convenors
- Increasing the participation of staff in the Corporate Volunteering Scheme
- Updating the Sustainability Strategy for 2014-2019
• Identifying current processes for student admissions, and pinpointing how sustainability principles can be embedded into the process
• Expanding tree labelling across campus and developing new arboretum walks and establishing gardens to complement the Ancient Cultures and Australian History Museums
• Working with key partners to promote sustainable travel on campus
• Implementing sustainability aspects of the Master Plan
• Resource efficiency review of all assets
• Sustainable design guidelines for new build and refurbishments
• Protecting and enhancing indigenous biodiversity values across campus
• Reducing potable water use and energy consumption

The sustainability projects fit into four key priority areas that reflect our core business as an educational institution. These areas include:
  o Leadership & Governance
  o Partnerships and Engagement
  o Facilities and Operations
  o Learning, Teaching and Research

The presentation can be viewed as a separate attachment under the Minutes on the Sustainability website.

3. Learning and Teaching for Sustainability - Leanne Denby, Director Sustainability

The group was shown a new video on the Learning and Teaching for Sustainability Project to introduce the background of the project and what it involves. The video can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeSjAiEcv1A

Leanne explained that the Learning and Teaching for Sustainability is a project about ensuring that we deliver on our stated goals and objectives defined within the Learning and Teaching Plan, as well as aligning with the defined graduate capabilities. It is about providing our students with an opportunity to learn the appropriate skillset, alongside the appropriate mindset, in order to deal with an ever changing world.

Phase Two commenced in 2013 and focuses on the broader undergraduate curriculum within the Faculty of Arts. It will have the benefit of learning from the pilot period associated with Phase One. For further information see the sustainability website.

4. iPrint Printing System – Amy Pilkington, Informatics

Amy Pilkington provided the group with an overview of Macquarie University's new approach to greener campus printing known as iPrint (iPrint.mq.edu.au). iPrint is a simple and consistent experience that lets you print from anywhere connected to the Internet and pickup from anywhere on campus, anytime you like. To collect your documents, you just tap your Campus Card (or other authorised card) at any iPrinter. The benefits of iPrint include:

  • Reduced paper waste. No forgotten printouts.
  • Time-shifting convenience. Print multiple documents and collect only once.
  • Privacy convenience. No more racing to the printer to intercept confidential documents.
  • CampusCard convenience. No need for any other card.
  • Fast. iPrinters offer modern high quality, high speed technology.
• Colourful. Option to print in colour as most iPrinters are colour capable, so you'll look great in print.
• Scanning and copying. Tap your CampusCard and scan and copy as normal.

All staff, students and library patrons can use iPrint. Documents are held in a campus print cloud and collected from any iPrinter located in open-access areas and in a growing number of restricted-access areas. Staff are able to take advantage of the iPrint experience as an add-on to local printing.

5. Vice-Chancellor address - Professor S Bruce Dowton

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the SRN for their ongoing work within the wider campus community and stated that it is an important part of what the University is about. He referred to the sustainability aspects of the Master Plan and noted some of the current works taking place, including the demolition of buildings opposite library and the development of green space to connect to central courtyard. The Vice-Chancellor commented that he is encouraging groups to meet across boundaries and disciplines, and feels the SRN is a great example of how staff come together across boundaries to focus on a single goal.

Although the Vice-Chancellor has found the campus a very friendly and outgoing University on the one hand, there are still a lot of silos that presents a potential problem in holding things back. There is a need to communicate and have touch points across traditional boundaries. The SRN demonstrates its good work in having touch points across the University.

The Vice-Chancellor shared he would like to see a more vibrant and welcoming courtyard where people can sit and connect. The University offers a tremendous opportunity to create a wonderful and physical environment. Watching out for each other as a community is a unique attribute of this University. In support of this, the Vice-Chancellor introduced family/parent evenings for new students to ease transition from high school to university life.

SRN members were thanked again for putting aside time in their core role to contribute to sustainability.

Belinda Bean asked about the link between the new green corridor outside the library and the Arboretum.

Mark Broomfield commented that there is a concept to create a green roof above the adjacent common space to the library for learning. Samantha Newton responded that she would like to be involved in this concept plan as she is currently looking at developing a green roof on the E8C terrace.

James Hazelton asked about a plan for the digital future at the University. The Vice-Chancellor responded that this will definitely be a focus and that 'on-line space' and 'duplication' will be reviewed.

Rachel Anderson asked about the significant trees at Dunmore Lang College and the importance of their protection and Warawara cultural significant.

6. Campus Master Plan - Mark Broomfield, Director of Property

The Director of Property gave a detailed presentation on the background to the Macquarie University Campus and the Campus Master Plan. Since the commencement of Professor Bruce Dowton and the new executive, the University has changed its direction and is going down a different path and away from being
primarily commercially driven. The driver is to create a legacy for the future. The Campus Master Plan aligns with the “Our University – A Framing of Futures” strategy. The Master Plan needs to be flexible enough to deal with the Strategic Plan. Numerous external consultants were engaged to assist the development of the Master Plan, involving over two and a half years work.

Historically, the entire Macquarie University campus and surrounding Macquarie Park area was predominately market gardens. In 1950 the NSW Government made a decision to look for a site for a new University. Of three sites, Macquarie University was chosen as the preferred location as it was considered a better-connected location.

The original Master Plan was prepared by Wally Abraham and was centred on a N-S-E-W grid system. Construction of the university commenced in the 1960s and involved the planting of over 70,000 trees. The area has changed considerably with Macquarie Park now the second biggest employment zone in Sydney, with the potential of becoming the fourth largest in Australia. The area is a hub for global headquarters with a significant growth in multi-residential housing.

In 2009 a Concept Plan was approved with the State Government identifying Macquarie University as a State of Site Significance. This identified and achieved approval for a number of key major developments, including the Cochlear Global Headquarters, the new Library and the Australian Hearing Hub.

At Macquarie there is a need to establish collaborative and modern spaces for research and acquire specialised equipment up to World Standard. Students are requesting different learning spaces. There is the potential to grow commercial/research space with half a million square metres of planning approval. The plan is to create a university led integrated health campus which capitalises on the Macquarie University hospital.

The University has two buildings with a Green Star Building rating of 5 by Design (Library and Hearing Hub). The University has adopted the ‘One Planet’ tool for building ratings on campus as it is more suitable for university buildings and can be used as both a design and operational tool.

Herring Road will become the main entrance and gateway to the University. This will require a new pedestrian entry and identity, involving a tree-lined avenue.

There have been a series of ‘place making’ workshops to identify opportunities to create connections and vibrancy on campus. Currently the most highly valued space on campus is the lake, most highly used space is the Globe Cafe for smoking, after which Central courtyard. There is a need to link up the northern and southern parts of campus and to activate Wally’s walk to establish meeting and stopping spots. The Lincoln building will undergo a refurbishment (meeting rooms) with a long term plan being to reactivate and connect the space with the adjacent courtyard.

7. **Tap It - It's Fresh and FREE'**: February/April M-power Theme - Cindy Cunningham, Sustainability Engagement Officer

Cindy refreshed the group on the background to the “M-power” campus engagement program which was introduced at the beginning of 2013 as a new way for SRN members and other staff sustainability enthusiasts to engage with colleagues and friends in a fun and practical way.
The M-power program seeks to facilitate staff awareness and engagement via an interactive engagement pack on the M-power website which focuses around a particular theme. Each theme provides:

- an overview about the theme itself
- simple and direct actions to undertake individually or as a group
- downloadable content such as posters, videos, briefing ‘cheat’ sheets on the theme for meetings, email communications template
- opportunity to get involved and win some great prizes.

In 2013 the themes were “Healthy You, Healthy Planet”, “Get Green with Your Team”, “Lend a Hand” and “Turn Off Before Take Off”.

Cindy presented the current February-April quarterly theme – “Tap It – It’s Fresh and FREE” which focuses on avoiding plastic disposable water and using the tap to refill. Cindy explained the theme and ran through the resources on the website, including the team ‘cheat sheet’, pledge, endorsement poster and Bottled Water Free Day poster. Cindy ran through the various actions related to the theme which can accrue Department Sustainability Challenge points for implementation.

The presentation can be viewed as a separate attachment under the Minutes on the Sustainability website.

8. M-power Your Ideas – Idea Generator session - Belinda Bean, Sustainability Officer

Belinda started the session by explaining the theory behind behaviour change and bad behaviours. The group was asked to identify bad behaviours they see staff doing and don’t like. The following was put forward:

- **Throwing Paper rubbish in the bin**
- **Wasteful printing**
- **Not smoking in designated areas**
- **Leaving the lights on**
- **Not participating**
- **Dropping rubbish**
- **Not taking coffee mugs**
- **Over ordering stationery**
- **Drinking from paper cups**
- **Dumping furniture rather than rehoming**
- **Not using reusable batteries**

Members were asked to take 5 votes on the behaviours they most want to see change. Those in bold were the top 5 behaviours voted.

**Group exercise**

The group was split into 5 smaller groups, to focus and discuss each one of the five most voted behaviours. The small groups were asked to:

a) Define the behaviour – What do you want staff to do vs what do you NOT want staff to do
b) Identify who is performing the behaviour
c) The action performed
d) The target the action is directed at
e) The context and time in which the behaviour occurs

Example: “Staff coffee drinkers (who) take (action) reusable cups (target) to a café (context) during their next visit (time)”
Belinda explained the determinants around behaviour - attitudes, emotion, habits, external constraints, capacity and social pressure. Behaviour is influenced by these different categories of determinants that often interact with each other. The relative influence of different determinants will vary across behaviours and target audience. Background factors such as race, religion, education, family up-bringing, gender and media also play a role.

The results of the discussions can be found in a separate attachment – Attachment 1.

9. Wrap Up

SRN members were reminded about the SRN grants and that information on applying, along with an application form is available on the SRN website along with information about past projects.

Cindy also informed representatives that John Macris, the university Biodiversity Planner is offering 4 teams of staff the opportunity to do a bushcare session on campus as a corporate volunteering activity. He is seeking groups of between 7 and 15 volunteers for the half day session which will involve bush regeneration along Mars Creek. He will have a bush regenerator on site to assist staff also. The sessions would run between April and October over the cooler months.

10. Next Meeting – May 13, 2014