

Friday 10th June 2022 13:30 -15:00 via Teams

Attendance & Apologies

Attendees: Paulo Cruz – Chair (Sustainability Officer – Estates & Facilities) , Kathleen Campbell (Arc Sports Centre), Sonya Campbell-Perry (GSBS), Mary Daly (Strategy & Planning), Therese Fraser (Head of Campus Services - Estates & Facilities), Stuart Martin - Student Communications), Yvonne McVey (Soft Services - Estates & Facilities), Shariq Sheikh (GSBS), Andrea Nelson (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)), , Valentine Morgan (Communications and Public Affairs), Sara McLean (GCU Students' Association), John Mavileth (GCU Students' Association), David Halliday (Head of Security - Estates & Facilities); Karin Helwig (SCEBE/University and College Union – Green Rep.), Gillian Hunter (SHLS)

Apologies: Jessica Michael-Odobi (GCU Students' Association), Linzi Scott (Catering - BaxterStorey), James McKenna (Catering - BaxterStorey), Nicholas Healy (Library), Yvonne Dempsey (SHLS), Douglas Chalmers (University and College Union), Christopher Baird (GSBS), Kenneth Allen (Head of Building Services - Estates & Facilities), Nicole Cooke (Communications and Public Affairs) and Julie Adair (Communications and Digital Engagement).

Attending: Joanna Healy (JH) (Clerk) – Administration Assistant GCU

Introduction

PC – explained the progression from the Sustainability Working Group that was mainly Estates based to the more inclusive Sustainability Forum.

Proposal is for a less formal group with an open channel to anyone that would like to share or requires support developing a sustainability initiative at the University. with the aim of fostering collaboration and making GCU more sustainable.

Welcomes thoughts on the running of the group, PC will provide updates to the group through the Teams page.

Terms of Reference

Circulated for discussion with the Group invited to provide feedback.

Updates – Sustainability Officer

The University continues to operate an Environmental Management System (EMS) that is certified EcoCampus Platibum/ISO 14001 and that this was last audited in March 2022. Currently working through some corrective actions resulting from that audit (but nothing major).

Carbon Neutrality – Last year the Sustainability Officer presented a modelling exercise to EB outlining opportunities and challenges for achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. The outcome of this

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exercise was the update/development (still ongoing) of a number of thematic action plans, including:

- **Sustainable Travel Plan** – Refresh of the expenses policy now called C Conscious Travel & Expenses Policy with the following key aspects: Portal for car journeys (not yet implemented); advice not to fly to destinations that can be reached by train in 6 hours (with associated behaviour change campaign #myclimatepledge); electrification of GCU fleet. STP and Implementation Plan are online.
- **Circular Economy Plan** – expanding focus beyond recycling to include more circular economy interventions (e.g. repair of furniture and white goods). Looking at enhancing waste management at C. Court and the University is ordering a compactor and once that is in place, glass and food waste services for residents will be introduced. Also evaluating impact of the forthcoming deposit return scheme on how the University manages waste. Last but not least, looking at how we might improve our understanding of waste arisings in London.
- In progress is an **audit of energy saving opportunities** by a specialist consultant. This'll inform the development of a plan to decarbonise our Estate.

The Sustainability Officer also highlighted the early stages in the development of water saving and biodiversity plans. It is anticipated that the biodiversity plan will have a strong student/staff engagement element. The group will be invited to provide feedback on these in due course.

It was also reported that the University had secured funding for a Campus Cycling Officer from Cycling Scotland.

The University is in the process of recertifying as a Fairtrade University and is awaiting the outcome of an audit carried out in April. The university is also awaiting the outcome of a Food for Life Served Here evaluation of the catering operations run by Baxter Storey. Both Fairtrade University and Food for Life Served Here are performance indicators in the University's Sustainable Food Policy, which is under review and the Forum is encouraged to provide feedback.

The Sustainability Officer also reported that he is working with Baxter Storey's Head Chef to carbon footprint the catering offer, with the ultimate aim of offering carbon labelling.

Updates - Others

- **Andrea Nelson & Mary Daly** – Updated the Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals Integration Working Group (SDG IWG) that stemmed from Strategy 2030's commitment to use the SDG as a framework for realising the University's mission and vision. The SDG IWG currently has three work-streams: Communications, Curriculum, Research, Community Engagement. Staff are welcome to contribute to the SDG IWG through respective School/Departmental links.

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- **Valentine Morgan** – Advised that Communications and Public Affairs was always looking to help celebrate new achievements/initiatives and encouraged the Forum to the GCU staff communications mailbox (communications@gcu.ac.uk).
- **Sara MacLean** – Updated that the Student Association was awaiting the result of the latest Green Impact Award and that they were aiming for ‘Excellent’ rating for the third year in a row. The Association also has two projects looking at food waste: one is a food donation box at C. Court to collect food from students moving away for local food banks; the other (at a much earlier stage) is evaluating the potential for establishing a community fridge at the University.
- **Gillian Hunter** – Update the Forum on SHLS piloting the LEAF sustainable labs framework in response to growing concerns about the amount of plastic waste produced from labs and a realisation that there was an opportunity to help students develop more sustainable lab skills. The project is supported by a £5,000 grant from Strategy for Learning Innovation Fund that will support a couple of student internships to develop common resources that will expedite the adoption of LEAF at CGU labs.

Planned Activity

- PC noted that assessment for People & Planet University League was imminent and that some information still needed to be added to the sustainability webpages.
- PC also reported that in the last year funding had been made available for a number of Carbon Literacy Training sessions and the Forum was asked to consider whether there was scope to make this an official programme for staff.
- PC informed the Forum that Glasgow City Council approached the University (and a number of other Glasgow stakeholders) to explore a programme for Climate Week 2022 (week commencing 26 September) and the Sustainability Officer noted that the programme could include presentations (e.g. Vertical Project Climate Archaeology) and pledges (e.g. #myclimatepledge and sign-up for the pool electric vehicle). The Forum were asked to contact the Sustainability Officer with potential suggestions.
- PCE also advised that he was researching how to set up a bicycle library/loan scheme in response to initial analysis of the 2021 Travel Survey and the ongoing increase cost of living. Scottish Schemes have been reviewed and options for potential suppliers being explored.

AOCB

None

Date of Next Meeting

7th September 2022 – 13:30-15:00 via TEAMS

Sustainability Forum – Meeting Notes



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Table of Actions

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ACTION
PC	To review and invite group member to the Teams Group
PC	To provide an update on the University's accreditation with Food for Life Served Here and as a Fairtrade University.
Group	Bring ideas to the group