

UTERN EWG Meeting
Friday, November 29th 2013
5:10-6:15pm, ES1042
MINUTES

Present: Lesia Kinach (UTERN Internal Executive Liaison), Nathan Miller (UTERN Clubs Liaison), Chris Stidwill (Veg Club), Martin Zhang (UT Marine Life Advocacy), Tegan Hansen-Hoedeman (Sustainability Office), Ben Donato-Woodger (UTEA), Sherif Kinawy (Harvest Noon)

Regrets: Bonnie Scott (Dig In!), Kristina Dokoska (VCSC), Lianna Hu (UTERN Env Week Coordinator), Reema Kureishy (Ecology & Spirituality)

1. Introductions & Minutes

- Lesia will get minutes posted onto UTERN website for future reference
 - o Will send link once they are up

2. Update from Eco Leaders Forum

- Sustainability Office is working on collaboration between staff and students
- Next meeting will be in January; want to have a keynote speaker (~20 min talk) who will help empower students involved in environmental initiatives on campus
- If interested in the Eco Leaders Forum, email tegan.hansen.hoedeman@mail.utoronto.ca
- Lesia will send out Greener in Here collaborators info sheet to everyone

- Facebook Group
 - o U of T Eco Planning Forum is on Facebook, it is a closed group for now to prevent spam, but feel free to invite others that could contribute to the group
 - o Lesia will send invitation to everyone for Facebook group
 - o Post on FB group or send e-mail to Lesia by Saturday 5pm if you would like UTERN to include your event in its list-serve the following week
 - o To join UTERN mailing list, go to: <http://utern.org/wp/mailling-list/>

- Newsletter
 - o Will contain information about environmental news/events at U of T
 - o Ben (UTSU) is going to work on this

3. Environment Week

- **Lianna**, UTERN's Environment Week Coordinator, will be contacting people with more info early in the new year
- Theme: tackling macro environmental issues with everyday actions; more info to follow
- Key Dates: week of **March 10th 2014** will be Environment Week
 - o It was suggested that **Lianna** should post dates on FB group to avoid overlap with any other environment weeks happening

4. Other updates from UTERN

- Lesia is working on updating pamphlets with more updated info about services
- If you have a chance, please check out the updated [UTERN website](#)
 - o Would be helpful for us to get feedback so we can make site more user-friendly
 - o Lesia is aware that Links page is outdated and is working on updated list of env clubs
- Maximum funding from UTERN
 - o we have funded projects from under \$100 to a few thousand dollars
 - o We have a substantial amount of funding available and encourage groups to apply
 - o Even if we can't or decide not to fund the amount requested, we may still grant partial funding
- Funding Requirement
 - o Lesia forgot to mention last meeting that if you are granted funding from UTERN, you are required to attend an EWG meeting to talk about what the funding was for
 - o This is flexible and can be either before or after the event/initiative has occurred
- Room booking inquiries
 - o Some expressed interest in booking meeting room for their club
 - o **David Powell** can help with this, especially with rooms in ES
 - o David's e-mail: dpowell@enviro.utoronto.ca

5. Updates from clubs/groups

Chris – Veg club

- New club, still getting organized; have different subcommittees, not centralized
- Chris is part of educational committee; a different committee screens documentaries
- Groups goals include animal rights activism, and promoting vegetarianism and veganism as well
- Working on Meatless Mondays

- **Chris** should contact Ben (sustainability@utsu.ca) from UTSU for more info about Veggie Mondays campaign

Martin – Marine Life Advocacy

- Have recruited some members to this new club; hosted 4 meetings so far
- 3 campaigns are the focus for the new year:
 - Petition
 - Awareness campaign on marine issues
 - Hosting major event – Prof J. Peterson is involved with a UN committee, so thinking of inviting Alanna Mitchell to give a talk at U of T

Nathan – ENSU

- Thinking about doing a summit like Beyond Green with some other groups
- Want to try and reach out to students and host more events

Ben – UTEA

- Working on climate change as justice issue for youth
- Held successful event with Jane Goodall in early fall
- Went to Line 9 protest; had workshop at Beyond Green Summit
- **Thursday December 5th** - hosting a [fall term social](#)
- Next semester: want to meet with Ontario Minister of Environment for lobbying
- Want to do more outreach to students
- Vic is also working on climate change, but more on changes in individual actions rather than collective action
 - **Lesia**: ask Kristina and Alice about their climate change initiatives as well

Sherif – Harvest Noon

- Harvest Noon is café/co-op, operates as business but more of a not-for-profit structure
- Focus is on local food for an affordable price; all vegetarian with vegan options
- Took part in Environment Week this past March; had a menu that showed you exactly where all of the food was coming from
- Currently collaborating with Veg club for documentary nights at the cafe
- [New board members](#) have just been elected
- Space is available for booking; catering as well
- Happy to collaborate with any other like-minded groups
- Weekly [bread bakes](#) on Mondays
- Lots of workshops offered throughout the year – check out website for more info

ASIDES

- a) Some suggestions for approaching environmental issues
 - focus on economics; for example how much money could be saved by preventing damage to environment, oceans, etc.
 - create environment that is open to all political views

- b) Vic is looking for keynote speakers for a big event
 - Please let **Tegan** know if you have ideas for keynotes who will speak on a budget
 - Suggestions: Keith Stewart for panel; Tom Rand as speaker
 - If anyone has connections through their colleges/faculties to people in the media or other organizations that could help, please let **Tegan** know
 - Looking to hold event at end of March hopefully; depends on getting a speaker confirmed

6. Next Meeting

- Likely will be the second or third week of January
- Lesia will send out Doodle Poll in the new year

SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

December 5th – UTEA [fall term social](#)

March 10th 2014 – beginning of Environment Week