

## UTERN Environment Working Group Meeting – October 31<sup>st</sup> 2013

### Minutes

#### Present:

Lesia Kinach – UTERN Internal Liaison

Kristina Dokoska – Victoria College Sustainability Committee (VCSC)

Mehreen Athar – Environmental Justice & Sustainability Committee (EJSC) of the GSU

Ananthavalli Kumarappah – EJSC

Kiril Federov – Green Chemistry, Sustainable Engineering, other clubs

Melanie Mastronardi – Green Chemistry Initiative

Martin Zhang – U of T Marine Life Advocacy

Jessica Denyer – Harvest Noon

Bonnie Scott – Dig In! Campus Agriculture

Bob Parry – New College Student Council & Office of Residence and Student Life

Tegan Hansen-Hoedeman – Campus Groups Liaison, Sustainability Office

#### Regrets:

Reema Kureishy – Ecology & Spirituality

Nathan Miller – UTERN Clubs Liaison

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## 1. UTERN General Backgrounder

- Lesia gave an update about services that UTERN offers:
  - o Funding – detailed info and applications on website: [www.uern.org](http://www.uern.org)
  - o Printing
  - o Promotion – links to social media on website; also e-mail list, event calendar
  - o Dishware/utensils – FREE lending service
    - Previously only lent out to groups that we have funded
    - Will consider lending out to other campus groups, but we must be ensured that we will receive all pieces back
- Lesia is drafting a concise info sheet that will explain our services and how to access them

## 2. Online Group/Forum

- Most agree that a **Facebook group** would be a good mode of communication; a few different options were suggested
  - o Closed group just for execs of clubs to post updates
  - o Group that is open for everyone, but **only** certain people (execs from clubs, groups) will have posting ability; this way people can join group just to stay updated, but we avoid spam
  - o One **issue** mentioned is that things sometimes get “buried” on Facebook feeds
- Another suggestion was to have a non-Facebook option; ideas include:
  - o E-mail **newsletter** where we take what’s posted on Facebook and send an e-mail with this information regularly
  - o Some sort of **webpage** that links to the Facebook Group; can update this separate page so non-Facebook users can see everything too
- Lesia and Tegan will discuss in more detail based on feedback

## 3. Proposal From Kristina (VCSC)

- Wants to start a **climate change campaign** that revolves around the new IPCC report; lots of talk on this issue but want to actually take action
- Some ideas proposed:
  - o **TED talk** with professors; bring in people to host discussion, have students participate; record and send around video to students
  - o Student run **conference**; different groups can run own workshops e.g. VCSC could do garden workshop
- **November 15<sup>th</sup>** – tentative date for meeting about this initiative
- Contact Kristina for more info → [sustainability@vusac.ca](mailto:sustainability@vusac.ca)
- All environment clubs who are interested are welcome to contribute to this initiative

## 4. Updates from clubs/groups

### Bob – New College Student Council and Office of Residence and Student Life

- Closing up the gardens for the season; not much else happening right now

### Mehreen and Ananthavalli - EJSC (GSU)

- Slowly building solid membership; no events planned yet
- Chosen to focus on public transportation and food justice

### **Kiril – Various clubs**

- Worked with SMC from June-August to incorporate sustainability into frosh week
- Trying to promote green living amongst college students; tried to focus on local food sources for frosh events

### **Martin – Marine Life Advocacy**

- New club at U of T
- Main focus: overfishing
- Faculty support: Professor Jordan Peterson from the Department of Psychology

### **Jessica – Harvest Noon**

- **Nov 5<sup>th</sup>** – smaller [cooking event](#) with Keith McHenry
- **Nov 6<sup>th</sup>** – [film screening](#) of The Cove; part of collaboration with U of T Veg club to host screenings once a month
- **Nov 7<sup>th</sup>** – co-hosting [event with McHenry](#) and group A World In Exile at Ryerson
- Also scheduling a cracker making workshop soon
- **Nov 19<sup>th</sup>** - AGM for members

### **Bonnie – Dig In!**

- Collaborating with UT BEES: workshop series on urban beekeeping
  - o **Nov 14<sup>th</sup>** – 10am, Hart House, East Common Room – first one
  - o Workshops probably will be held second Thursday of each month
- Also organizing fall and winter workshop series; 4 from Nov to Feb, topics include:
  - o Urban chicken keeping
  - o Edible cosmetics
- Last gardening day for the season coming up; all welcome to come out

### **Melanie – Green Chemistry Initiative**

- Mostly grad students, some undergrads involved; second year being active
- Goal is to promote green concepts to students in the department; since chemists use a lot of chemicals, they can play a role in mitigating their environmental impacts
- Host a weekly trivia event
- Host monthly seminars; invite experts from industry, gov't and academia to talk
- Hosting **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Workshop** on Green Chemistry
  - o Will involve students from all across N. America
  - o Trying to build a network with other similar groups at other universities
  - o Also want to reach out to engineering, biology groups
- Jan – want to start video campaign about principles of Green Chem

- With extra funds, have provided scholarships to students who were working on green chemistry initiatives

### **Tegan – Sustainability Office**

- Trying to get in contact with various environment clubs
- Someone else is working on networking with **staff and faculty**
  - o Want to have a meeting soon with staff, faculty, and environmental student leaders about how to work together; make events more successful
  - o Tentative date: **Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>** probably around lunch time
- Plan is to have a bigger meeting next semester; bring in speakers from community
- Working with Bike Chain: **Nov 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10am is their [grand opening](#) with food from Harvest Noon!

### **Kristina – VCSC**

- Sept: had environmental sustainability week
- Now doing monthly workshops and other events
- **Nov** – Thurs or Fri after reading break, planning an organic dinner + discussion
- **Jan** – hosting workshop on ecofeminism with Education Equity Committee and Sexual and Gender Diversity Office
- **Feb** – environmental [fashion show](#)
- **Mar** – possible trip to sugar shack

### **Lesia - Update from Ecology and Spirituality Meeting**

- Held a discussion panel at the Beyond Green Youth Summit on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>
- held successful event “Home is Where the Spoon Is” at New College a few weeks ago
- New College working on possibly setting up a **seed library** and **composting** structure
- Ecology and Spirituality working on planning events from now until April
  - o Open to collaborating with other clubs or groups
- For more info contact **Reema**: [reema.kureishy@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:reema.kureishy@mail.utoronto.ca)

### **Lesia – Update from Hart House Farm Committee**

- HH Farm located in Caledon, ON; Committee hosts at least 4 events each year
- Events are seasonal, usually include activities/workshops, e.g. baking, crafts
- Held **Cider and Song** event on October 19<sup>th</sup>; over 60 people came; pressed cider outside and Music Committee held open mic inside
- Planning another event for **Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** ; details should be on HH website soon
- Always looking for volunteers to help organize events or help prepare food at events
- Secretaries this year are **Theresa** and **Sophia**: [farm.committee@gmail.com](mailto:farm.committee@gmail.com)

## 5. Next Meeting

- Probably only one more this semester, either end of Nov/early Dec
- Lesia will try to send Doodle poll at least 2 weeks in advance

### **\*SUMMARY OF KEY DATES\***

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