

Academic Working Group on Sustainability

Annual Report 2017-2018

5/2/2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Campus
Sustainability Office

Members of the Academic Working Group on Sustainability 2017-18

Alan Diduck – Environmental Studies & Sciences (Chair)

Lee Anne Block – Education

Richard Westwood – Environmental Studies & Sciences

Andrew Park – Biology

Ian Mauro – Geography/Richardson College for the Environment

Royden Loewen - History

Alana Lajoie-O'Malley – Campus Sustainability Office (Administrative Support)

Joseph Wasylcia-Leis – Campus Sustainability Office (Administrative Support)

Overview of Activities

The Academic Working Group met five times over the course of the academic year and accomplished two main tasks.

First, it reviewed the process for identifying sustainability-related courses in support of key academic objectives in the university's Sustainability Strategy. This included a review of the syllabi of courses that were identified as sustainability focused or related when an initial course inventory was undertaken for the University's 2015 STARS submission. Based on this review, the inventory is being updated over the summer and will be maintained on an ongoing basis by reviewing new courses and curriculum changes brought forward to Senate.

Second, the Working Group began taking steps to develop a community of practice for faculty interested in teaching and research activities related to sustainability. For this academic year, the Working Group held a 3MT competition in which UWinnipeg faculty presented their sustainability research to a panel of student judges. Devin Latimer (Chemistry), Dawn Sutherland (Education), Judith Huebner (Biology), Judith Harris (Urban & Inner-City Studies), Roland Bohr (History), Royden Loewen (History), and Patricia Fitzpatrick (Geography) presented their research and Dawn Sutherland won the competition. Building on the success of this event, the Working Group began developing a plan to hold a series of events during the 2018-2019 academic year. A preliminary schedule of 4 smaller internal events and 2 larger outward looking events was discussed at the final meeting of the academic year. It will be further developed over the summer.

Looking forward to next year, the Working Group has set as an objective to diversify its membership, to solidify its community-of-practice work, and to continue to move work forward on understanding the scope and breadth of sustainability-related curriculum at the University in order to develop approaches to its community-of-practice that speak to our environment.