

# Academic Working Group on Sustainability

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Annual Report FY2020

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

Campus  
Sustainability Office

## Members of the Academic Working Group on Sustainability FY2019

Ian Mauro – Geography/Richardson College for the Environment  
Lee Anne Block – Education  
Andrew Park – Biology  
Royden Loewen - History  
Joseph Wasylycia-Leis – Campus Sustainability Office (Administrative Support)

### Background: Academic Working Group (AWG)

The Academic Working Group on Sustainability (AWG) has existed as a senate-approved body operating under the auspices of the Campus Sustainability Council since 2012. The AWG brings together faculty members from different departments who share an interest in sustainability teaching and research at UWinnipeg. The group works closely with the Campus Sustainability Office (CSO) on achieving UWinnipeg's strategic objectives relating to environmental education and knowledge mobilization. The academic working group generally meets 2-3 times per year but did not convene in person in FY2019.

Unfortunately, the AWG did not meet and was not active during the 2020 fiscal year. The AWG's main initiative for 2020 to help plan a student environmental leadership retreat set for the spring of 2021, but this was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We found that without specific projects to work on it was difficult to recruit new faculty members to the committee, and current members had less capacity because of the increased workload of online teaching and working from home.

### Next Steps of the AWG

Of course, the range of our ability to engage faculty members on environmental education initiatives on campus varies with the state of the pandemic. In the meantime, the CSO will continue recruiting faculty members to the AWG. We plan to share a survey with interested faculty as a way of determining a vision for the committee and the types of projects it will pursue in the future.

One promising opportunity is to have members of the AWG play an advisory role in support of the CSO's new Student Sustainability Leadership Program. This initiative would benefit from faculty with different sustainability-related academic backgrounds helping with curriculum development, student research, and volunteer placements.



Joseph Wasylycia-Leis  
Campus Sustainability Coordinator