

# Sustainability Committee Minutes

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 2pm, SU

- | <b>1. In Attendance:</b>                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Action</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Liam Lees, SU President (LL) - Chair                                                                                                                                                      |               |
| Tim Hewes-Belton, Student Engagement Manager (THB)                                                                                                                                        |               |
| Joe Jenkins, Venue and Events Supervisor (JJ)                                                                                                                                             |               |
| Helen Black, Student Networks and Volunteering Assistant (HB)                                                                                                                             |               |
| Beverley Hemming, Finance & Commercial Assistant (BH) - taking minutes                                                                                                                    |               |
| <br><b>Apologies:</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |               |
| Grace Bell, Sustainability Network (GB)                                                                                                                                                   |               |
| Meg Coley, Sustainability Network (MC)                                                                                                                                                    |               |
| Lucy Robson, Sustainability Network (LR)                                                                                                                                                  |               |
| <br><b>2. Matters Arising/Minutes Approval</b>                                                                                                                                            |               |
| <b>2.1 Minutes</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |               |
| The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.                                                                                                         |               |
| <br><b>2.2 Single Use Plastic Update (2.2)</b>                                                                                                                                            |               |
| Meeting booked for THB and BH to carry out Single Use Plastic Update.                                                                                                                     | THB/BH        |
| <br><b>2.4 Rolling criteria (2.4)</b>                                                                                                                                                     |               |
| Meeting booked for THB and BH to develop strategy to reduce unnecessary cloud/network storage.                                                                                            | THB/BH        |
| <br><b>2.5 Embedding the SDGs (2.5)</b>                                                                                                                                                   |               |
| SDGs to be part of email footer - this was discussed and decided it may be better to use The SDG Accord logo. THB to discuss with Clement Servini (CS), Marketing and Comms Co-ordinator. | THB           |
| <br><b>2.6 Green Impact-Students' Union (2.6)</b>                                                                                                                                         |               |
| BH still to invite Katie Boom to attend another staff meeting and it was agreed this would be an October staff meeting if possible.                                                       | BH            |
| <br><b>2.7 Green Impact-Students' Union (5)</b>                                                                                                                                           |               |
| Meeting arranged for early August (this meeting) to commence planning for Green Impact.                                                                                                   |               |

- 2.8 **Embedding SDGs (6)**  
 It was agreed that THB would talk to activities and voice teams about ensuring that we have some education and/or alignment of SDGs in all training we deliver - this action to be carried over. THB
- 2.9 **Embedding SDGs (6)**  
 CS had offered to make SDG emails more student friendly and send out on a regular basis.
- 2.10 **Embedding SDGs (6)**  
 BH had forwarded previous SDG emails and attachments to LL
- 2.11 **Embedding SDGs (6)**  
 THB does include an SDG induction for new core staff, but this was not happening for student staff. THB to talk to Samina Fiaz, HR to standardised SDG induction across all staff. THB
- 2.12 **Staff Suggestions (7)**  
 BH had spoken to Jack Moore about Food Poverty Challenge.
- 2.13 **Schedule for Next Year (8)**  
 SUS meetings have all been booked in diaries for this academic year.
- 2.14 **Thanks (9.1)**  
 THB had spoken to BH and JJ's Line Managers. Line Managers were both happy for BH and JJ to be involved in SUSS committee.
- 3. Update from University Sustainability Strategy Group - RF Action Plan**  
 The University is looking at carrying out big projects, such as powering some of the university from underground saline aquifers, in the future.
- SU had helped the University apply for funding for the wildflower meadow.
- A report is being done on current heat usage however it is impossible to tell how much gas is being used in the SU as the SU is linked to other buildings.
- The SU needs to look at how it can help the University reach carbon neutral in Scope 1 and 2 by 2030.

The Responsible Futures Project Plan 2020 - 2022 action plan was discussed ([see appendix 1](#) for action plan) and points raised included:

Element 4 - action for THB

Element 5 - around the work of the SU Networks

Element 6 - mapping exercise

Element 7 - SU needs to be involved in this

Element 9 - SU has been attending all partnership catchups.

These items will feed into the SU Operational Plan 2021 - 22 (item 5 on the agenda).

#### **4. GISU Accreditation Overview**

This document gives an overview of the scoring of the green impact accreditation. THB gave a document briefing, including looking at where the SU had estimated scores differently to those given by the auditor, and he asked that when able committee members look over the document more thoroughly.

All

#### **5. SU Operational Plan 2021 - 22**

THB had entered objectives for Sustainability into the SU Operational Plan 2021 - 22 and asked committee members to confirm objectives satisfactory and amend/add items as necessary

All

#### **6.0 AOB**

##### **6.1 Solar Panels to run Air Conditioning**

A staff member had asked if it would be possible to have solar panels to run the air conditioning in The Hangar. THB to investigate.

THB

#### **7.0 Date of Next Meeting**

15 October 2021 at 2pm - planning meeting

SDG Training Session to take place before graduation.

**Actions:**

Item:	Action Required:	Action to be carried out by:
2.2	<b>Single Use Plastic Update</b> Audit SU - meeting booked	THB/BH
2.4	<b>Rolling criteria (2.4)</b> Develop a more in-depth strategy to reduce unnecessary cloud/network storage - meeting booked	THB/BH
2.5	<b>Embedding the SDGs (2.5)</b> SDGs to be part of email footer using SDG Accord logo.	THB
2.6	<b>Green Impact-Students' Union (6)</b> Katie Boom to be invited to attend another staff meeting and talk about one specific area	BH
2.8	<b>Embedding SDGs (6)</b> It was agreed that THB would talk to activities and voice teams about ensuring that we have some education and/or alignment of SDGs in all training we deliver.	BH
2.11.	<b>Embedding SDGs (6)</b> THB to discuss with Samina Fiaz standardising SDG induction across organisation	THB
4	<b>GISU Accreditation Overview</b> Committee members to look at document.	All
5.	<b>SU Operational Plan 2021 - 22</b> Committee members to look at, amend and add items to SU Operational Plan.	All
6.	<b>Solar Panels to run Air Conditioning</b> THB to investigate this.	THB



## Appendix 1

### Project Summary

#### Introduction

Responsible Futures is an externally-assessed certification from SOS-UK of a whole institution approach to social responsibility and sustainability (SRS). By 'whole institution', that is a Partnership between the Students' Union and the University.

The scheme provides a framework for action that will help facilitate institutional change. The accreditation mark recognises and celebrates progress being made along a journey of change, rather than it being certification of an endpoint. Once awarded accreditation lasts for 2 years. UW has held accreditation since 2015 and most recently reaccredited in April 2020. The Sustainability Strategy Group provides the forum for the monitoring of the Responsible Futures Project Plan, developed jointly by Worcester Students' Union and the University, which seeks to build on our accreditation successes and set out a pathway for development and successful reaccreditation.

The key recommendations from the April 2020 re-accreditation audit were:

- Ensure that the SU has a stronger voice/role in the partnership.
- Ensure evaluation of all RF activities.
- Shape student expectations and experiences of ESD in the formal curriculum, ensure this is more embedded and there are clear opportunities for students to assess their engagement.
- Gain feedback on the impact of RF work on students.
- Communicate RF work more extensively to the student/staff body and more widely to local communities.
- Enhance awareness of social sustainability issues.
- Engage with other RF partnerships to share good practice.

	Element	current situation	actions next period				Owner	Progress
			Semester 1 2020/21	Semester 2 2020/21	Semester 1 2021/22	Semester 2 2021/22		
1	RF accreditation audit.	Full report of the April 2020 audit received August 2020.	Review audit and recommendations at meeting of SSG and develop project plan.	Monitor project plan progress at June SSG meeting.	Review project plan elements and progress at October SSG.	Prep for re-accreditation audit summer 2022.	KB/HB/TH-B/SU officers	RF audit report discussed and plan developed.
2	Embedding SDGs in the formal curriculum.	New L and T Strategy approved July 2020 – education for sustainable futures one of the key goals.	Strategy for embedding SDGs to LTSEC for approval.	Participation in the SDG Teach-in.  Development of a workshop for course teams on embedding the SDGs	Delivery of workshops to course teams.  Development of SDG curriculum mapping.	Participation in the SDG Teach-in.  Review impact of strategy for embedding SDGs.	HB/DLTQE	Strategy approved by LTSEC and monitoring through university LTQE plan.  Increased participation in SDG teaching including SU sessions during the two weeks. Workshop

								developed for roll out.
3	Embedding sustainability – EfS curriculum projects.	Review 'Learning for Responsible Futures' (LfRF) scaffolding projects.	2020-21 LfRF proposal call launching in New Year.  Explore SoS-UK 'For Good' platform.	Projects proposals reviewed and agreed new projects to start.	Review LfRF scheme for re-launch.		HB/KB	Inquired about 'For Good' – no further action.  LfRF launched Jan 2021 – one proposal received, not accepted. Scheme to be reviewed.
4	Measuring engagement of students in sustainability and impacts of RF work	Preparation for launch of SuLiTest for all new student starters in August 2020.	Review results of SuLiTest uptake by Sept 2020 starters	Invite S2 starters to take SuLiTest.  WPI project on student engagement with sustainability	SuLiTest available to be taken by new starters in August 2021.	Invite S2 starters to take SuLiTest.  Further WPI project on engagement with wider cross university work.	HB/KB/ THB	SuliTest made available but late so limited engagement. Also available for S2 starters and better % uptake.

				(with SoS-UK co-sponsor).				WPI project completed.
5	Student action for Efs	UWSU Sustainability Network established.	Sustainability Network chair as member of SSG  Efs/SDG session at 'Repsival' for course reps.	Review strategy for engagement of course reps with SDGs and Efs.	Develop course rep role descriptor to include sust. and develop supporting training for reps.		HB/TH-B/SU network	Sustainability Network established and chair participating in SSG.  SDG session at Repsival did not take place.
6	Embedding SDGs in SU work/campaigns	Beginning of mapping SU work to the SDGs	Develop mapping of SU activities and campaigns/posters the SDGs.	Embedding SDGs into Elections training and delivering Network led SDG teach in sessions. Delivering SDG newsletters for SU staff.	Green checklist for SU clubs and societies  sustainability awareness raising with other societies and networks eg BAME, LGBTQ+, etc.?		TH-B/SU network	Mapping complete  SDGs now included in all SU design request to ensure mapping across all promotions,  SDG Teach-in Sessions took place.



					SU staff training in SDGs			3 staff newsletters sent in 2020-21
7	Communication	STO Digital creatives Comms link						
8	Carbon literacy training	University and SU have declared a climate emergency (carbon neutral by 2030). Need for further training and awareness raising.		Launch carbon literacy training in GGW Feb 2021.	Wider dissemination of carbon literacy training to students and staff.			
9	Networking and dissemination	Engage with SoS-UK RF partnership network.  Disseminate practice via media posts conferences and publication.	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	HB/KB/WUSU	Worcester attendance at all catch-ups.  Meeting with Keele SU officers.

								Advance HE conference April 2021

Other things to add in?

- Work on PRME
- Work considering alumni
- Awareness raising SWAY 'course'