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Advisory Council on Sustainability

February 27, 2018 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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 reconciliation by heeding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action, specifically
through educational and institutional efforts aimed at redressing historical legacies of injustice
and restoring relationships with Indigenous peoples.

The Final Report was submitted within a relatively short timeline (June 21, 2017), and launched next to
the newly relocated Hochelaga Rock. The Report identifies 52 calls to action organized around the
following five themes:

 Student recruitment and retention
 Physical representation and symbolic recognition
 Academic programs and curriculum
 Research and the academic complement
 Building capacity and human resources

In response to a question by an Advisory Council member, Prof. Manfredi clarified that the Task Force
Report’s Calls to Action were different from those in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. These
had originally been called “Recommendations” but the term “Calls to Action” was felt by the co-chairs to
be a stronger expression thereof.

The interlinkages with sustainability were clearly highlighted in the Task Force report: its Co-chairs met
with the Office of Sustainability to identify potential areas for support and collaboration. For example,
one of the actions in McGill’s Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) is to “Recruit an indigenous
scholar or artist-in-residence to raise awareness of Indigenous issues & climate change”. Francois Miller
adds that the summary version of the CSAP will be translated into Innu, Mohawk and Cree.

To uphold McGill’s commitment to the calls for action, Prof. Manfredi embedded a new position of
Special Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives, as part of his office: the incumbent appointed in this important
new role is Kakwiranó:ron Cook, who is also a member of the Advisory Council on Sustainability.

Prof. Manfredi highlights some contributions led by a few Deans (including the three present) who had
independently recruited indigenous faculty, including in Law, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Biology.

5. Overview of the Climate and Sustainabilit10<002701ID 13> BDC BT
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had been rated Platinum so far. In response to members’ questions, Ms. Ng clarifies that the
STARS rating was valid for three years after submission.
 In terms of accountability, Sustainability Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were added for the
Board of Governors.
 Finally, the Office of Sustainability will work with individual units to develop unit-level action
plans to integrate sustainability into departmental strategies and internal operations.

In summary,
 The CSAP was generally well-received, albeit many questions arose as to what could be done to
reduce unavoidable Scope 3 emissions from research travel.
 Carbon offsets were discussed as an option. One member recommends that the expense reports
could include information on distances travelled and associated greenhouse gas emissions. This
information could be used to raise awareness on the impacts of air travel. Eventually, the offset
cost could be integrated into the overall cost of travel.
 While this could be possible for administrative travel (30%), discussion would be necessary with
granting agencies and academic units to address the 70% portion of research-related travel.

6. Potential ways to communicate McGill’s commitment to sustainability

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 Organizing an event like a summer climate concert by the School of Music, or speaker series,
etc.
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8. Next steps and closing remarks

The McGill Catalyst awards are coming on April 3rd. It is an opportunity to celebrate our University’s
most inspiring sustainability projects and people. Ms. Ng describes the various categories and the
independent selection process.

Mr. Miller will send an official invitation to the Advisory Council members to attend the Catalyst awards.

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is already scheduled May 17, from 9:00 to 11:00am. Proposed
agenda items include:
 A presentation of McGill’s 2016 GHG emissions
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