Advisory Council on Sustainability

McGill University, Zoom Online Meeting September 21, 2021 (3:00 PM 4:30 PM)

Present: F. Miller, Y. Beauchamp, D. Dutton, C. Manfredi, D. Mondou, E. Bennett, B. Harvey, B. Lennox, J. Nicell, D. Daryanani, K. Hogue, C. Aubrac, P. Cigana, A. Desousa, L. Rathmell, N. Voland, G. Cadet, K. Litwin, K. Houser.

Absent with regrets: T. Phillips, A. Porlier

1. Welcome

working group that will be put in place to develop a process, criteria, and communications for the program.

Members suggested:

- The students presentation at the last meeting was impactful. We are glad that their initiative is being taken seriously and that things are moving forward.
- What kind of changes would be able to move the needle? It seems that both infrastructure and behaviour change interventions are important to operating green labs.
- Shutting the sash makes a huge difference in energy consumption. This was the focus of a previous campaign funded by the SPF that utilized stickers on the equipment to remind users to close the fume hoods. Sometimes the simplest solution, such as a sticker, works very well. In sum, behaviour change works and has benefits such as energy cost reductions.
- Take into consideration the timeline for re-

- take stock of the good things and make sure that they are embedded? How much regulation is needed vs. just trusting in individual accountability?
- When looking to keep these habits, it is interesting to think of behavioral nudges: for instance, an opt-out vs. opt-in model.
- L. Rathmell mentions that opt-out is the better model. The default is the option you want to encourage, such as a basket subscription. The opt-in model, requires communications nudges and much more effort.
- Revitalizing industrial roofs is very interesting and so is providing locally-grown food. Lufa has a lot of expertise. It could be interesting to see if there is an opportunity to have something similar at McGill, for instance with the New Vic project.

6. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

F. Miller mentions that the annual sustainability survey will be launched soon and results will be shared at an upcoming meeting. The next Advisory Council meeting will take place on November 23, 2021.