

Sustainability Issues & Fairtrade Task Group (SIFTG) – MINUTE of Meeting

Task Group of the Sustainability & Environmental Advisory Group

Twenty-first Meeting: Tues 11th Aug 2009 - 3.00pm in Rm 2.04, 13 Infirmary St

Members:

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| Karen Bowman (Convener) | Director of Procurement | KB |
| Daniel Abrahams | People & Planet co-Convener | DA |
| Evelyn Bain | Procurement Manager | EB |
| John Blair-Fish | IT Unix Systems, Information Services | JBF |
| Ruth Cape | People and Planet co-Convener | RC |
| Philippa Faulkner | Ethics and Environment officer | PF |
| Thomas Graham | EUSA President | TG |
| Non Jones | Student | NJ |
| Kristofer Keane | Ethics and Environment officer | KK |
| Ronnie Kerr | Press and PR Manager, Communication & Marketing | RK |
| Angela Lewthwaite (Secretary) | Estates and Buildings Office | AL |
| Ian Macaulay | Asst. Director of Accommodation Services, Catering | IM |
| David Somervell | Sustainability Advisor | DS |
| James Wallace | EUSA Vice-President - Services | JW |

www.fairtrade.org.uk

Corresponding: VP Professor Mary Bownes, Professor Pete Higgins; Mr Nigel Paul; Prof Jan Webb; Rev Di Williams; Prof Tim Hayward; Dr Graham Russell; Stewart Russell

Welcome: EUSA Member – Philippa Faulkner and Kristopher Keane, John Blair-Fish

Apologies: Evelyn Bain; Ruth Cape; Philippa Faulkner; Kristofer Keane; Ronnie Kerr; Non Jones; Angela Lewthwaite

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| | <p>The minute of meeting held on 26th may 2009</p> <p>Minute was agreed as an accurate record. http://www.seagsiftg.estates.ed.ac.uk http://www.pps.ed.ac.uk/about/green/fair_trade/index.htm</p> | Circulated |
| 1 | Matters Arising: <i>All covered in the agenda</i> | |
| 2 | <p>Membership & Remit Review</p> <p>The Group agreed that Thomas and James would take a back seat and allow Philippa and Kristofer take the reigns with regards to the SIFTG Group. As sabbaticals they would still be on hand to help out if needed. The Group endorsed Philippa and Kristofer as a EUSA presence from now on.</p> <p>Non Jones has since intimated her interest in attending the Group and would attend future meetings.</p> | |
| 2.1 | <p>Drinking Water Policy</p> <p>The Policy had been passed and a document detailing the Drinking Water Policy would be issued throughout the University in Nigel Paul’s name on behalf of Corporate Services.</p> <p>Posters to be circulated for display in all buildings –EUSA would not display these particular notices but agreed to display notices showing access to drinking water. EUSA would consult George Boag on this matter.</p> <p>KB – This initiative likely to save the UoE £80k per year</p> <p>JW – Noted that Leeds Student Union had removed bottled water from their shops etc –</p> <p>EUSA felt that a blanket ban would be inappropriate –better to install water fountains or by make access to drinking water available this would encourage students to fill up their own water bottles. In the interim EUSA would look to stocking locally sourced bottled water.</p> <p>EUSA to promote their ‘lug-a-mug’ for use for drinking water as well as coffee.</p> <p>Works Division staff have almost completed water tests for all University buildings. Staff and students should be no more than 3 minutes away from a source of drinking water. If this is not the case, Works Division would assist with providing an appropriate water source. It was emphasised that all water from cold water taps was of drinking quality.</p> | <p>Paper 2.1</p> <p>TG</p> <p>TG</p> |

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| 2.2 | <p>FT Application 2009 KB – There was no reason to doubt that the application would be successful – KB would distribute feedback to the Group when known. http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/annual_review/?dm_i=605314102</p> | KB |
| 2.3 | <p>Transition Edinburgh University (TEU) – Update Natalie Czaban, one of the Summer Interns, introduced the TEU initiative A funding bid for Phase 2 should be determined in Oct –funding would support a 16 month project to take forward the findings from the initial feasibility study – the application would fund 6 full-time members of staff rolling out at least 6 initiatives. JW agreed to discuss with TEU to try to complement the initiatives and their engagement. EUSA would promote student volunteering in such initiatives. Consultation necessary with ‘University Settlement’.</p> | Paper 3 NC / JW |
| 3 | <p>Shaping our Future : Thurs 1 October 2009 Events Day DS advised the format for a special event day – where morning session would focus on practical issues, afternoon on people and academic issues and the evening would be a formal launch of the Transition University Study with informal networking on how to take it forward. Prior to the event day an SRS meeting had been setup up for the 27th Aug to bring together and discuss all initiatives and identify a vision for 2020. The Group noted that the Government had set up a consumption target of 42% by 2020. The University had been invited along with others to sign up to 10:10 – an initiative promoting a 10% emissions reduction in 2010. This may be achievable by including TEU and other parties in the push to make the 10% reduction. DS noted that the Switch and Save Campaign had an impact on consumption with a 5% reduction instead of a 5% increase year-on-year. KB recommended any 10:10 initiative be coordinated with the planning round which would commence in November. Short time scale if this is the plan. The Group endorsed this recommendation as crucial to educate all colleagues through our policies and our actions. Student Engagement: JW suggested students feel detached from Switch and Save campaign at the moment – seems like it is a University initiative and not for personal life. TG – If students see Climate Change as priority it may become of more importance. Need to make it easier for students to get on board with the initiatives. Posters and leaflets were not effective enough. The TEU initiative should improve the situation.</p> | DS |
| 4 | <p>Edinburgh Fairtrade City Initiative (EFCI) KB & EB were thanked for leading on this and representing the University. KB would like to invite others to come along to the meetings. KB would update at next meeting.</p> | Paper 4 KB |
| 5 | <p>Fairtrade Strategy Document final - 5 yr vision – To be approved, owned by SIFTG and published online in the new Semester. Feedback from the submission to the Fairtrade foundation was awaited. The document would be operational and also used as a reference. KB – would like to see this embedded within Procurements Strategy and pushed through senior management as a result. There were useful elements of the document which could be built into their strategy. The document would be a working document and be merged with the report back from Fairtrade Foundation – The Group agreed to leave the document as it is and review at the meeting in Nov after the October Day and Fairtrade Foundation have given feedback.</p> | Paper 6 KB KB |
| 6 | <p>Fairtrade Fortnight 2010: 22 February – 7 March 2010 EUSA representatives agreed that they were prepared to host an all-Scotland Universities & Colleges Fairtrade Conference. Betsy Reid from Scottish Fairtrade Forum keen to organize the event, with a possibility of partnering with Edinburgh Napier University. Conference needs to be focused and action based in order to get greater involvement. Content must be attractive to students. Agreed that an action meeting needs to be setup with Betsy and has to come from the students. KB – Action –to call a meeting with EUSA, DS, EAUC-S (Andrew Chamberlain and Sarah Lee be involved) JBF – Suggested that the conference go beyond putting the message across about just buying Fairtrade goods and taking it further into the understanding of Trade Justice as a whole, not only with students but also to get academics to participate. Possible title – “Making Scotland a Fair Trade Country” – possible date for this is w/c 22nd Feb 2010 – need to make a start on planning soon.</p> | ALL KB / EUSA |

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| 7 | <p>Report from CAM - Developing a Fairtrade presence on iTunes U KB – Should we be promoting Fairtrade through itunes? Bearing in mind that quality is not great. Action – speak with Ronnie Kerr and see if he could come up with a strategy for this.</p> | Paper 8 KB/RK |
| 8 | <p>Report from EUSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing - update <p>http://www.bishopstontrading.co.uk/shop/article.php?category_id=12&article_id=47 No further update.</p> | TG |
| 9 | <p>Report from EAUC-S (<i>Environmental Association of Universities and College-Scotland</i>) It was noted that John Forster had stepped down from managing the DFID-funded Poverty Aware Procurement on Campus project – which is moving to its final stages. It was proposed that 1 member of staff & 1 student attend next programmed meeting. Contact KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Procurement for Universities & Colleges / Public Procurement Reform: The University has adopted the APUC procurement manual and training received by key staff. | KB |
| 10 | <p>Report from People & Planet, Edinburgh University New events;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairtrade on Fringe • Fairtrade Picnic • Initiative involving Primary and Secondary Schools in local area to promote fair-trade. KB – will raise this at city group – encourage community outreach. | DA |
| 11 | <p>Report from Accommodation Services – Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IM reported slow progress with Waste Management Licensing for the composter at Pollock Halls. Now composting green waste and awaiting license for food waste. • Vending machines – meetings with suppliers – Update next meeting • Cardboard compactor working well with high volume throughput. | IM, EB |
| <p>Dates of next SITFG meetings - Venue Rm 2.04, 13 Infirmary St unless otherwise notified. 3.00 pm Tuesday 3rd November 2009 2010: Tuesday 19 January – 3.00 pm; Tuesday 25 May – 3.00 pm; Tuesday 10 August – 3.00 pm Tuesday 2 November – 3.00 pm.</p> | | All please note |