

Ethics and Environmental Committee

Wednesday 13 March

Minutes

Present:

Moses Apiliga, VP GSBS (Chair)
Laura Brietkreutz
Rory Harte
Leila Rabelo, GCU Sustainability

Apologies:

Ewan Bally
Susan Docherty

Present:

Sara MacLean, Student Voice Team Leader (Clerk)

1. Apologies

As detailed above

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from 06 Feb 2019 approved

3. Actions from previous meeting

None

4. Climate change conversations

Climate change conversations are a Scottish Government initiative. Would need to host two between now and June. Informal but guided conversation with two activities – photos and the nine rules that need to be changed by 2030 to reduce climate change. Participants are asked what scenario would be most likely what would be least likely. Usually takes one hour with 5 to 10 participants. Group discussed ways forward - Either could do an open offer to all students or ask Societies Coordinator if a club/society would be interested in doing one. LR to explore options and contact MA if she would like to go forward with it.

5. Sustainability in food

RH opened up discussion on if GCU goes far enough with just looking at takeaway containers or do we look at creating a more sustainable food options. For example, the only option in the latte machines is cow's milk and most of the sandwiches are made with butter in the canteen.

18% of all emissions come from agriculture. Students should have the ability to make informed decisions about their meals, but how can they when there is limited choice. There are examples of a 50/50 vegan/animal split at a university down south. Would be more cost effective for students, healthier. Ethically, it would help with poverty worldwide. What is the way forward? Realistically an open discussion about what the canteen operates such as information around the canteen. Stall to gather information.

Group discussed ways forward: we have just agreed with the on campus outlets to label vegan food. This will also allow us to monitor better how much of the canteens food is

vegan. To complement this win, we could also do an information/awareness campaign about the sustainability of vegan choices. Also discussed working with the canteen to switch the coffee machine milk from cows to oat milk for example. Also about promoting meat/animal alternatives at fresher's event through a vegan cookout/vegan food trucks or tasting sessions with vegan companies. Group discussed timeframe and as we are most of the way through trimester 2, the best way forward is to put this as an idea to Student Voice. If student voice votes for it then it would be assigned an officer to take forward and report on outcomes. Action: RH to submit idea to Student Voice

6. Green Impact update

Was unable to host stall to collect data on takeaway waste in the canteen. Action: SM to reformulate questions into an online survey and to promote.

7. AOCB

Waste composition analysis will be taking place this Friday. LR or PC to feedback results to group

Hackthon on event at Strathclyde hosted by Sunstrans on 17 April 10am -4:30pm.