

**01Green Impact**  
**14/8/15 – Q103/Ea205**

**Action**

**1 Attendance**

**1.1 Present**

Grace Anderson  
Simon Chubb  
Linda Collett  
Jo Harbrow  
Sarah Johnson  
Tom Manville  
Sophie May  
Leigh Rooney  
Naomi Rudd  
Catherine Wakeling  
Sammi Whitaker

**1.2 Apologies**

Matt Ensor  
Pip Piperdy

**1.3 Absent**

**2 Acceptance of previous minutes**

**2.1 Accuracy**

OK

**2.2 Matters arising**

None

**3 Items for discussion**

**3.1 University sustainability strategy working group**

SW explained that she had been working with members of the environment team and the GSI on a University sustainability strategy. In the light of previous discussions around the lack of applications for the Green Pitch, LC asked whether the environment team would still be prepared to support the scheme financially. SC confirmed that he was happy to support whatever scheme the SU decided to implement for this year.

SW went on to say that she would like to see a sustainability conference (one per campus) run by the SU and would also be working with the Ents team on a recycling party.

SW noted that the draft strategy would be taken to Steve Bennett and Eamon Strange for their input.

**3.2 Green Mondays**

SW introduced the paper and explained that the scheme had started in Hong Kong, then spread to the USA and was now being introduced into the UK. She noted that Meat-free Mondays had previously been voted down at Union Council but that vegetarian options had wider environmental benefits. A discussion about the scheme took place and it was agreed that SW would speak to Terry Hope about the possibility of having meat-free options and that a slow roll-out approach would be taken to try to educate students and staff about the environmental benefits. It was also agreed to use the existing publicity materials.

**SW**

**3.3 Responsible Futures**

SW explained that this was an NUS supported change programme and accreditation mark that works to put sustainability at the heart of education. She went on to say that the scheme looked very interesting but that the deadline for registration was 31 August. As there would need to be a commitment for staffing and budget, it was agreed that, although the University had offered to share the cost of the scheme, the Union could not commit to it this year, but would look at it for next year. LC to put on USG agenda in December for discussion.

**LC**

### **3.4 Whole Earth**

SW introduced the Whole Earth exhibition which is an international campaign in conjunction with Students organising for sustainability (SOS). This would incorporate the Hard Rain project and will provide the evidence students need to enter the debate about their future. Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin would be hosting an exhibition from 4-16 October on Parker's Piece, with the ARU launch on 5 October in LAB002. There would be a variety of speakers who would be presented by SW and a Cambridge Union student. SW also noted that she, LR and one other officer would be attending the European launch at the Eden project on 9 October.

### **3.5 Green Impact 2015-16 – going for Gold**

SW to liaise with NUS regarding the NUS campaign criteria. LC explained that although there were some Gold criteria that could be marked as "Not applicable", there was still a threshold of points that needed to be achieved in order to gain a Gold award. She went on to say that some of the criteria were time-bound and asked members to read through the document to familiarise themselves with it. It was agreed that the Special criteria would also be investigated.

**SW**

**LC**

### **3.6 Green Gown awards**

SC explained that he conducted an annual analysis of Green Gown award winners and had concluded that those which had strong student involvement or projects relating to the curriculum were generally the most successful. He went on to say that there were a lot of good projects happening around the University and that some of them may be worth a nomination. It was agreed that this would be kept in mind for next year's awards.

**ALL**

### **3.7 Environmental activity action plan**

LC explained that an updated version of the activity plan had been presented to trustees in June, but that the committee now needed to set objectives for the forthcoming year. It was agreed that everyone would give this some thought and it would be brought back to the next meeting for discussion.

**ALL**

### **3.8 NUS Blackout**

SJ explained that this was an annual event which this year would take place on 13 November. It had been developed in Southampton where they saved 6% of energy over the weekend. She explained that there was a cost of £950 plus VAT in the first year, to cover support and training and then £475 in subsequent years. A discussion took place and it was generally felt that this was an expensive scheme and that the Union could do something similar without affiliating to the NUS scheme. SW suggested a policy be taken to National Conference about NUS charging unions for "bolt-ons". SW agreed to contact NUS to see if she could negotiate anything. SJ also to look at Earth Hour, which was the WWF alternative and bring details to the next meeting.

**SW**

**SJ**

## **4 Any other business**

### **4.1 Student engagement**

SJ reported that the environment team would be looking at re-thinking the Switch-off campaign that they had run in-house last year. They were working on creating a "Green Block" or hall for next year which would then be an option for accommodation the following year. The team would be focusing on three main objectives to engage students during the year: travel, waste and energy.

She also confirmed that the Green Love competition for staff would continue to run.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

**Friday 16 October – 10.00-12.00 - VC**