

Aston University

Sustainable Aston Working Group

Notes of the meeting held on 18 January 2012

Present:	David Aboukheir	Peter Hedges
	John Blewitt	Kathy Hopkin
	Christopher Brewster	Victoria Johnsen
	Alan Charters	Peter Quaife
	Stuart Cooper (Chair)	Elena Schad
	Marie-Shireen Hadid	Peter Shearer

In attendance: Julie Ottley (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lucy Bastin, Andrew Bryers and Helen Pattison.

2. Membership

Marie-Shireen Hadid was welcomed to the group as the Guild's Equalities and Ethics Officer.

The post of Environment and Ethics had been combined with Equalities.

3. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting, held on 28 November 2011, were confirmed.

4. Matters arising

(i) Go Green Week

Copies of the timetable for the week were circulated.

Student reps were asked to try to generate student interest as participation had been poor in previous years. They suggested Facebook as the best approach.

There was not much input from Schools, however, it was agreed that any forthcoming teaching should also be listed. Members should notify Victoria.

ALL

The Environment Team would be in Reception all week and the VC had agreed that the main entrance and upper foyer could be 'taken over' by Go Green during that week.

Events could still be added to the timetable. Members should notify Victoria if anything else arises. Also help on Reception during the week would be appreciated.

ALL

(ii) EcoCampus

Audit training would start in February and once this was completed an audit programme would be set up in order to go for the platinum award.

(iii) Birmingham Centre for Business Ethics (BCBE)

The Centre would be coming to Aston University but the transfer would not be complete in time for the launch event to take place during Go Green Week.

5. LIFE

John Blewitt had obtained more information on the scheme. It had a more holistic approach and curriculum, research and teaching were more integrated than in other systems.

There was reluctance from the group to commit to invest in this scheme as the precursor had only lasted two years and then disappeared. It was noted, however, that from an academic perspective this system could have an impact.

It was agreed that John would investigate further to consider whether it would be worthwhile.

JB

It was agreed that John would try to re-establish the curriculum sub-group.

JB

6. KPIs

The Executive had made the decision not to include KPIs for research and teaching and learning because they were difficult to measure. LIFE would, however, measure these activities.

The group were disappointed with this outcome as it intimated that sustainability was not important.

It was agreed that Alan would report the group's concerns to the Executive.

AC

7. School Reports

ABS – sustainability and social responsibility would be included in the development of the ABS strategy in line with the University 2020 Strategy.

EAS – corporate social responsibility module had been introduced on engineering management programmes.

LSS – Sociology were very active. Languages were also active and Politics were starting to become active.

8. Other business

Catering

Kathy and Victoria had met with catering and it had been agreed that catering would work towards the Soil Association Food for Life bronze accreditation.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be before the end of term where consideration would need to be given to the next Chair of the group.

JO