

The Green Ambassador Program

Official Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Office, St. Lucia

Sem 2, 2019 Preliminary Meeting

Date/Time	1 October 2019	Chairperson	Emily Conn
Duration	1hr	Notetaker	Sophie Rutter
Venue	Global Change Institute		

Noted Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Suzanne Davis	Staff
Christine McCallum	Staff
Ishara Sahama	Student/Staff
Tomas Piccinini	Staff
Nakita Cally	Student
Julia Groening	Staff
Sophie Rutter	Staff
Becky Cole	Student/Staff
Christine McCoy	Staff
Fiona Hurrey	Staff
Lucy Marquis-Kyle	Student
Gisella Marquez	Student
Erin Carroll	Staff
Vivienne Santiago	Student
Kyle Ramirez	Student
Duc' Nguyen	Student
Nathacha Subero Castillo	Staff
Pratibha Jaiswal	Student

Noted Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Stephane Guillou	Staff
Giselle Pickering	Student/Staff
Cassidy Mogg	Student/Staff

Item	Description	Action & Who	Due Date
1.	Presentation of the Green Ambassador Program (GAP)	<p>Current Programs in the Sustainability Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Office Green Labs Green the Team Green Fund <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative space for staff and students to work together in the sustainability space, build off sustainability strategy <p>Goals for GAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autonomy in cohort 	-

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- Presentative of all groups in the UQ community
 - Encourage different levels of participation
 - Currently need more coordinated communication about UQ sustainability, GAP to help with this
 - Fostering networking, collaboration and communication

Forum (possible future event):

- A way to communicate and share ideas that create initiatives, which can be progressed into the future
- Spreading information across UQ through the representatives
- Potential “Environmental Council” organises and supports the Forum

2. **Discussion of the Ambassador Program**

This Council will be good for the following: -

- People interested to learn about how sustainability works, and how to do it together
- Connection between people and efforts (bringing people together)
- Collaboration, sharing resources to work together to create new initiatives – walk the talk as an institution
- People here to learn more
- Develop volunteering programs in the sustainability space – Becky
- The more people lending their power to a cause
- Working as a team to put pressure on and active decision makers

Current plan:

- First meeting (this one), about getting a feel for people’s interest
- Next meeting about how the program will be rolled out (either 2019 or 2020)

Things for council to possibly research:

- Composting throughout UQ community
 - Communications strategy
 - Involvement within the Sustainable Development Solutions Network – Youth (related to UN’s SGDs)
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Process to capture ideas in GAP:

- Create process or platform, asking...
 - What are people perceptions of the problems?
 - Surveying/interviewing to create list
 - “Pick your problem” – people focus on issues, give them tools to have agency
 - Create structural change within UQ
 - Sustainability Strategy already looked at what people think are problems within UQ community, so should use this to our advantage and tackle these problems first.

Tools within UQ:

- Organisational development
- Take stock of what tools are available to the group
 - From UQ – organisationally
 - People within Council have own resources and networks to use
 - Strength of group is that we have diverse experience and expertise

Inviting other people to the Council (possibilities):

- People from all areas, needs to be representative
- Glenda – example of person who should be asked to be involved, and won’t necessarily know about the Council or think they can be a part of it
- Staff email newsletter to reach as many people as possible
- Social media channels should be used, particularly to target students

How can UQ have an impact on greater community? - Going to happen anyways: Spreading culture inside will impact culture outside

Strategic in being representative at Forum:

- People need access to the Forum
 - Advertising to people takes time
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- Specific recommendations for people through the network

Ensuring student voice:

- Consultation
 - Done in initial stages, should be done at beginning of Semester 1, 2020
 - Communicate to people that this is an umbrella organisation, so they understand that it's a uniting effort
 - Better understand what people want
 - Low barrier to entry is important – better for getting more people involved

Environmental Council:

- Encouraging participation at all levels in Ambassadors
- Council comprised of people who can commit to the role
 - What can you contribute?
 - Topics for the agenda, so every week a different topic
- Easier to attract people if they know what is going on/topics discussed, so that you can get the specific people who are directly involved
- Useful in creating action plan – more focused
 - People can prioritise things that are important and relevant to them
- Useful for students as well to know what they can participate in

UN Solutions network:

- What can we offer students?
 - Up to council to decide if this happens
 - Important to communicate to people what this means for people
 - Offer ways students can be more employable through the Program
 - Student staff partnerships – opportunity to collaborate too
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3.	Structure of the Ambassador Program	Everyone is 'an ambassador': <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trying to structure it so there aren't any barriers for access between groups• Whatever role you have allows you to have input based on your current role or experience – you are an expert in your own experience• Support connections, improve communication• Online forum for communication? Something to be discussed.	-
4.	Next Steps	Next meeting – either end of 2019 or beginning of 2020. Will email everyone who attended today, as will be put on register. First to know of new meeting details. Research how politically involved we can get as a Program and relay these results either through email or next meeting.	-
