



**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Thursday 2nd May, 10.00-12.00

Trinity Board Room

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Mary Kelly, VP Biodiversity and Climate Action & Secretary (Jane Stout), Chief Technical Officer & Unite Rep. (Maurice Sweeney), Dean of Research (Sinead Ryan), Librarian and College Archivist (Helen Shenton), COO representative Director of Campus Infrastructure (Mike Clark), Vice Provost (Orla Sheils), Dean of STEM (Sylvia Draper), Chief Financial Officer (Louise Ryan), Staff Representative (Dr. Conor O’Kelly).

Apologies: Chief Operating Officer (Orla Cunningham), Mr. M. O’Cinneide.

Absent: Colm Ennis

Vacant: Undergraduate/Post-Graduate Student Representative.

In Attendance: Sustainability Manager and Minute-taker (Jane Hackett).

Chair welcomed new members - Mr. Colm Ennis, Dr. Conor O’Kelly.

ESC/23-24/15 No statements of Interest declared.

ESC/23-24/16 Minutes from last meeting

Minor changes requested with respect to two items – cross over with capital projects and change of wording regarding the metro.

Action 16.1 – Edit the minutes and disseminate to the committee.
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ESC/23-24/17 Actions Call Over

CIC dashboard –The appointment of a Master Planning Architect is in progress. The masterplan will look at our existing campus in terms of the built environment and what the next period of ‘development’ will look like in terms of refurbishment, redevelopment and space allocation. Sustainability is one of the key themes of the tender process. The Master Plan will not include Trinity East. This committee is a stakeholder and can provide input to the Master Planning process. Discussion of how the committee can engage with other projects on the dashboard at early planning stages. Identified a need to establish a formal pathway for this Committee to input to decisions around new projects, and feed into the decision making from the beginning.

Action 17.1 – Invite Healthy Trinity to present at the next meeting.
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Action 17.2 – Suggest to the Board that people sitting on multiple principal committees should represent and report back and to ask that this is added to their terms of reference.

Action 17.3 – Add feedback from other principal committees as standing item to the agenda for this committee.

Policy reviews – discussion of need for an updated Sustainability Policy.
Committee preference for simplification of policies and strategies.
Consider including updated policy as preface to Sustainability Strategy.

Action 17.5 – Share the current 2017 Sustainability Policy on Decision Time.

Action 17.6 – Executive to prepare an update to the Sustainability Policy using the college template and share with this committee for review.

ESC/23-24/18 Risk Register – Draft Trinity Sustainability Risk Register

It was noted that sustainability risks were included in the top 6 risks of the College Risk Register. Trinity Sustainability Risk Register (TSRR) should be added to the Risk Management System on Decision Time for all members of the committee to view and review. Discussion on whether to include existential risks, as they can't be controlled by actions taken within Trinity. Discussion about whether having 17 risks is too many, a suggestion was made to group key risks together to reduce the number of risks. A risk register for this committee can be considered at a later date.

Action 18.1 – Share the full Trinity Sustainability Risk Register (TSRR) excel spreadsheet on Decision Time.

Action 18.2 – Amend the TSRR to add a preface outlining the global/existential risks of climate change, biodiversity loss and health.

Action 18.3 – Group TS risks to reduce overall number of risks (e.g. inability to respond due to lack of resources and regulatory risks to include climate action target risks).

Action 18.4 Trinity Sustainability to liaise with the Risk Office to discuss broadening the College Risk Register Sustainability Risk beyond risk of failing to meet legislation

ESC/23-24/19 Trinity East Project - Presentation by the Bursar

The Bursar presented to the Committee and a discussion followed which focussed on;

- Why the project isn't in the College Master Plan (due to timing, site is self-contained and there was a set budget for the masterplan and Trinity East is funded by philanthropy)
- Whether carbon impacts were included (yes, new public procurement rules require them)
- Donor sustainability policies (Gift Acceptance Committee performs due diligence)
- Status for current tenants (they will stay, and activities will be built upon)
- Flood risk analysis and effects on timelines and development plans (Capstone project focusing on the Grand Canal Basin is being undertaken)
- What this committee can do to help (support at Board, identify opportunities when engaging with others).
- Integration with other libraries (good opportunity to develop living lab project re. digital carbon).

Action 19.1 – This committee to review the ethics and gift acceptance policies with respect to sustainability.

Action 19.2 – Share findings of capstone project with respect to flood risk in the Grand Canal Basin.

ESC/23-24/20 Trinity Sustainability Updates

General updates

Discussion on recruitment of staff to Trinity Sustainability, upcoming email to staff about the ESD common module and future submissions to Planning Group, especially with respect to multi-annual funding.

Action 20.1 – Liaise with CFO re. completion of new template for Planning Group application in September, share with this committee before submission.

Climate Action Roadmap

Trinity Sustainability is responsible for submitting annual Roadmaps but requires extensive technical input from the Director of Campus Infrastructure’s (DoCI) team. Previous roadmaps (March and Nov 2023) are on the website <https://www.tcd.ie/sustainability/resources/sustainability-reports/>.

Discussion on need for operational decarbonisation and energy reduction plan to be developed by DoCI’s team, initially for this Committee and which can be presented to Board, that contains details on proposed projects to close Gap to Target, their costs, and associated carbon/energy savings, so that projects can be prioritised. Also need to articulate risk of not meeting Targets. DoCI stated that his team lacked capacity with respect to decarbonisation and energy management.

Action 20.2 – Presentation on Climate Action Public Sector Mandate and our obligations to be given at next meeting.
Action 20.3 – Draft Climate Action Roadmap to be presented to this committee at the next meeting.
Action 20.4 – Operational Decarbonisation and Energy Reduction Plan to meet government Climate Action Plan Targets be developed for this Committee for onward transmission to Board by Q4 2024.

ESC/23-24/21 College Strategic Plan

Consultation on the University’s next Strategic Plan is underway.
Important to ensure sustainability is at the heart of it.

Action 21.1 – Include consultation with VP/CAO at the next meeting of this Committee.

ESC/23-24/22 Financial Plan

Meeting between Trinity Sustainability and CFO/FSD has been arranged to progress discussion of both college-wide funding requirements, as well as requirements for Trinity Sustainability.

ESC/23-24/23 Workplan

Discussion as to whether we add voluntary reporting under CSRD on the work plan. FSD is engaging with [REDACTED] and conducting gap assessment – what current systems can report vs. what we need to report.

The Chair advised continuous review of the workplan.

Action 23.1 – CFO to come back in Sept with outcome of this reporting gap analysis.

ESC/23-24/24 AOB

Next meeting 20th June 2024.
