

Biodiversity Sub-committee of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Biodiversity Sub-committee reports to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) and is committed to maintaining and enhancing ecosystem health on the TRU campuses, and increasing biodiversity awareness and initiatives on all campuses. Biodiversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth, and can encompass the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life. By understanding the threats to biodiversity, we can work to change our actions and help ensure the survival of species and the health and integrity of ecological systems.

Responsibilities

1. To advise ESAC regarding the development and implementation of programming and initiatives to regularly maintain an inventory of biodiversity elements and activities, and increase biodiversity initiatives at TRU in alignment with the current TRU Master Plan, TRU Strategic Sustainability Plan, STARS reporting, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
2. To communicate and collaborate with the Sustainability Office regarding biodiversity initiatives at TRU.
3. To assist ESAC in their advisement to the Accreditation Steering Committee and reporting on mission fulfilment in relation to the core theme of Sustainability. The sub-committee will develop and coordinate measurement of biodiversity related indicators.
4. To provide biodiversity resources to faculty and students with the aim of increasing biodiversity awareness and initiatives on campus and student involvement in such initiatives.

Composition and Terms of Office

Members of the Biodiversity sub-committee can be drawn from the University community at large and can be faculty, staff, or students. Members are not required to be members of ESAC and are not required to be elected to the sub-committee. Ideally, at least several of the committee members are elected members of ESAC.

- **Chair/Co-Chair** The Chair/Co-Chair should be nominated by the sub-committee and elected at the first meeting of the academic year, to serve a two-year term, which can be renewed.
- **Vice-Chair** The Vice-Chair should also be nominated by the sub-committee and elected at the first meeting of the academic year, to serve a two-year term. The Vice-Chair will step in to chair meetings if the Chair cannot.
- **Members-At-Large (MAL)** All members of the TRU community (students, staff, and faculty) can be MAL. They will serve a minimum of a one-year term.

Meetings, Agendas, Records and Reporting

- Meeting dates and times will be agreed upon by the sub-committee. Meetings will normally occur once per month for one hour (but not in July or August).
- The chair will be responsible for ensuring that meeting agendas are sent out to all members one week prior to the meeting date.

- Minutes will be recorded during all meetings and will be sent to all the committee members within one week of each meeting.

Administrative Support

TRU Sustainability Office