

UTBEAT Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2009

Attendance: Simona Rasanu, Jessica Forrest (secretary), Ying Wang, Shelly Xu, Emily Austen, Andrea Zikovitz

Agenda items:

1. Elections
2. Mugs
3. Paper
4. Energy
5. Outreach

1. Elections. Last elections were held April 2, 2008; 2009 elections will be held at next meeting (April 1). Positions are on website and will be announced by email. Interested parties should send a brief statement of interest and qualifications to utbeat@yahoo.ca

2. Mugs. Feb. 25th mug-painting party was productive. Laura has ~30 additional mugs available for distribution. Daryl says CSB doesn't need these, but could take more. ACTION: Jessica will ask Sean if more are needed for EEB.

3. Paper.

a. Paper collection: Catherine Siu is now collecting one-sided posters in RW for re-use (in UTBEAT paper re-use tray in RW mailroom). Jessica is storing single-sided paper (temporarily) in RW507. Elah reports that she has some signs and paper trays and just needs to decide where to put them. Have efforts been made to get other campus groups involved in paper collection?

b. Journal binding: Laura reports that a binding machine was obtained in the past (2005) from someone on admin staff in Zoology, possibly Howard Lem? Jessica will forward this information to Donna and try to figure out who this was.

c. Paper reduction/FSC paper: Paper use survey is being circulated among CSB and EEB faculty (by Elah, Andrea, Jessica, Daryl). ACTION: compile results by end of March; approach Terry Hill about supplying 100% FSC if appropriate. Next steps: After survey, circulate suggestions to faculty, e.g. that assignment submission on re-used paper could be acceptable. ACTION: Ying will speak to Gerstein admin about changing to default two-siding on printers, or providing info or discount for double-siding. Simona will approach Robarts admin.

4. Energy.

a. Competition is finished; winner will be chosen within the next week and prize announced. Shelly and Jessica will take care of this, and will be reimbursed by Simona.

b. RW renovations. Major renovations are no longer in the works, but minor renovations may be possible. Simona contacted the Office of Infrastructure Planning about possibilities for UTBEAT involvement in minor renovations, but has not received a response from Adrienne. She will follow up.

c. ACTION from last meeting: Donna to ask Ian Carson about light reduction in ESC.

d. Environment audit was suggested at last meeting, to be conducted in conjunction with safety audit. This seems like something that needs to come from higher-level administration. ACTION: Simona will contact Bruce Dodds at Facilities about implementing this.

e. To promote sustainable practices at the level of individual labs, we could advertise the UCSB LabRATS guidelines, available at http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/LARS/best_practices/energy/ ACTION: Emily will try to distill some key points from those guidelines for posting on lab doors.

5. Outreach.

a. Website. Andrea has ideas for creating an “education” section on the website, e.g. with links to other sustainability initiatives on campus. The issue of birds crashing into windows was discussed, but this is not believed to be a big problem at U of T, at least not compared with other buildings in the city. Shelly will help Andrea develop a blog (through U of T) for promoting UTBEAT and environmental awareness instead/as well as (?) modifying the website. Emily asks how many people visit website; presumably Elah has this information.

b. ACTION: Ying will look into writing (with help from Jessica) a health-and-environment-related article for Stethoscope, a monthly periodical for health students.

c. ACTION from last meeting: Elah to transfer googlegroup to U of T Listserv

d. Upcoming environment (March 16) and energy (April 3) fairs discussed; decision eventually taken not to participate, as we would be a poor fit and have no specific ideas of what we could contribute; our efforts are better spent elsewhere ACTION: Simona will send an email reminder for us to attend the April 3 Sustainable Energy fair as visitors.

e. Ying was going to update UTBEAT group photo for website. This will be postponed so that a nice outdoor photo can be taken.

Misc.

Announcement--Environmental job fair this Friday, March 6, 10-3 including lunch (volunteers get free lunch) at Hart House

Next meeting expected to be held Wednesday, April 1, at noon in ESC 3043.