Meeting Minutes

_____

Meeting:	Principal's Advisory Council on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	Date and time:	Wednesday, September 6, 2023
Location:	355 King Street West, 3rd. Floor, Rm 328 (Teams link available)		
Attendees:	• Heather Aldersey • Patrick Deane • Oyedeji Ayonrinde • Karen Bertrand • Benjamin Bolden • Juan Francisco Chavez Ramirez • Sandra den Otter • John DiPaolo • Setareh Ghahari • Ishana Gopaul • Melinda Knox • Sheng Li	• Warren Mabee • Kate McCuaig • Victor Odele • Brian O'Neill • Nancy Ross • Ellie Sadinsky • Stephanie Simpson • Nathan Splinter • Jenn Stephenson • Marcus Taylor • Gavan Watson • Amy Wu	
Regrets:			

1. Land Acknowledgement and Chair's Welcome

2. Introduction of Members

The Council welcomed new members and re-introduced themselves, and shared the unique perspectives they believe they will bring to the group.

3. Information Sharing/Updates

a. The Chair informed Council that they are attending the United Nations Summitt on behalf of Queen's University with Kate McCuaig and Victor Odele. Briefing to be providing at next meeting.

b. SOS UK International Pilot Invitation to be discussed via email from Chair, draft framework was shared with council prior to September 6th meeting.

c. A Teams Site has been established for the group as a share point. All updates' agendas and meeting materials are posted on the site. Please contact Tasha drexlert@queensu.ca if you have any questions about this site.

4. Overview of THE Rankings

a. Presented to the Council by Melinda Knox, was a summary of THE Rankings as they were launched in 2019. THE Impact Rankings capture universities' impact on society, based on their success delivering on strategies that advance the United Nations' 17 SDGs.

b. The presentation slides are available on the SDG TEAM site.

5. **Overview of Past SDG Related Institutional Efforts**
   a. Presented to the Council by Nathan Splinter, the group was informed of the various sustainable efforts Facilities and Queen's has implemented. Topics discussed were Sustainable/SDG Education for Staff, Faculty, and SDG governance at Queen's, as well as what makes up Low Carbon District Energy.
   b. Nathan offered to expand the presentation at future meetings which could include topics such as, the Natural Environment and Engagement Model / Outreach.
   c. The presentation slides are available on the [SDG TEAM site](#).

6. **Overview of SDG Curriculum Efforts**
   a. Presented to the Council by Marcus Taylor, the group heard about how coordinating sustainability pedagogies can aim to foster greater numbers and coherence of sustainability themed courses across the University, and how this can open student pathways towards transdisciplinary study.
   b. The presentation slides are available on the [SDG TEAM site](#).

7. **Highlight of 17 Rooms Suggested Actions**
   a. Presented to the Council by Danny McLaren, and Chair, Heather Aldersey, the group were given an overview of the 17 Rooms exercise.
   b. Divided into 17 virtual rooms, one per SDG, and asked to identify actions that the university could take in the following 12 to 18 months to advance their goal.
   c. Produced 17 short reports, each with a different number of recommended actions. Ranged from 1 to 18.
   d. 83 main actions, 58 sub-actions were outlined.
   e. The presentation slides are available on the [SDG TEAM site](#).

8. **Next Steps for Discussion**
   1. How do we build on actions in the past and current ongoing strengths to create operational frameworks that will further advance impact on the SDGs at Queen's?
   2. What might Queen's institutional SDG frameworks/operational plans look like, linking in to key existing strategic documents? (15 mins).
   Goal: Identification of action items over next month to enable continued conversation at October meeting.
   3. What are some realistic, concrete, and achievable activities we may want to work on implementing together in the months to come? (e.g., Recommendations for SDG certificate, framework/recommendation around institutional SDG awards/incentives; events) (15 mins).
   Goal: Prioritization of top 3 to start working on, identification of tasks over next month to advance these actions.