

Meeting Minutes

Meeting:	Principal's Advisory Council on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	Date and time:	November 15, 2023
Location:	Richardson Hall Room 315 (Teams link available)		
Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Aldersey • Oyedeji Ayonrinde • Ishana Gopaul • Nathan Splinter • Mika Henry • Ben Bolden • Amy Wu • Warren Mabee • Kate McCuaig • Victor Odele • Brian O'Neill • Stephanie Simpson • Marcus Taylor • Gavan Watson 		
Regrets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Bertrand, Juan Francisco Chavez Ramirez, Sandra den Otter, Setareh Ghahari, Melinda Knox, Sheng Li, John DiPaolo, Jenn Stephenson, Ellie Sadinsky 		

1. Land Acknowledgement and Chair's Update

- a. Council approved October 2023 meeting minutes.
- b. Promoting transparency, the Council approved posting all meeting to the [Principal's webpage](#).
- c. Warm welcome to Mika Henry from the Queen's Office of Indigenous Initiatives. Mika will sit on monthly council meetings and will also advise on additional ways to engage with Indigenous colleagues at Queen's related to SDG activities (e.g., Indigenous caucus).

2. Working Group Reports

- a. **Terminology and Mandate**
Presented by Warren, the group focused on identifying a course of action that could be executed in a structured environment that enables SDG implementation. They identified that the goal is to make this an Institutional priority about facilitating partnerships, transdisciplinary, and inter-disciplinary work less bound up in specifics that will change over time and more broadly about creating space for the work. Connectivity, plug into existing initiatives and mechanisms are key. The group spoke about the importance of making SDGs understood and actionable and noted that SDG learning experiences and content could be embedded into preexisting courses, departments, and faculties. The group began discussions of accountability mechanisms and reporting expectations on the framework once established.
- b. **Research Impact**
Presented by Amy Wu, the group identified a need to know ourselves better to identify SDG strengths and gaps through existing activities. Discussed incentivizing SDG activities, knowledge mobilization, and trainees.
- c. **Student Learning and Teaching and Research Integration**
Presented by Gavan Watson, the group spoke about the importance of how to ensure that all staff and faculty have a basic understanding of the SDGs. They suggested that having annual educational programming requirements should be implemented. They also noted that a goal should be that students are able to recognize and articulate the skills fostered through their research experiences as they relate

to the SDGs. The groups approach was in line with the others about making what we already have visible and then focusing on accelerating and enhancing.

d. **Organizational Culture**

Presented by Nathan Splinter, the group presented potential goals such as enhancing engagement of students in conversations about SDGs and Campus Culture. Help staff understand the relevance of SDGs to their roles. They also spoke about how training for all staff, such as in the PDP process can enhance awareness. The group also spoke about centering wellness in messaging and connecting SDGs to organizational culture or students, staff, and faculty. They also noted that framework should play off the natural connections between pre-existing strategy and SDGs.

e. **Queen's in the Community & Global Engagement**

Presented by Victor Odele, the group discussed the importance of identifying priority areas for community engagement projects and social issues as well as how to strengthen existing community partnerships between the university and the City of Kingston. As the others identified, the group expressed the need to focus on the institution's natural connections to SDGs and current activities and how we are to make this measurable and engaging. They also identified the potential for increasing student involvement in local initiatives with global impact and or international experiences at home and abroad (newcomer services, refugees, global partnerships, etc.). They suggested more resources for office of Indigenous Initiatives at Queens.

3. Additional Conversation:

- Documents with which the Operational Framework should engage:
 - Strategic plan
 - Strategic research plan
 - Global engagement strategy
 - Provost's KPIs
 - Climate Action Plan
 - Truth and Reconciliation – Extending the rafters
 - PICRDI (perhaps dated now)
 - 17 Rooms Reports
- Some discussion around how the Operational Framework will be a reframing what we are already doing to talk about SDGs and elevate/enhance existing work, but will also move beyond that to more transformative/aspirational goals
- Conversation around consultation plan
 - If Framework is built around all the existing documents, significant consultation already completed to establish those
 - Discussion of need for expediency to move to action (April 2024 deadline), vs. need to be intentional and consultative
 - Future meetings to dig into idea of consultation further

Next Steps:

- The council agreed for the subgroups to meet before the next meeting to create/draft 2 to 6 goals that are most relevant to their subgroup. Try to draft a 2 year, 4 year, 6 year goal. These could be benchmarks with actionable items, fully embedded with considerations of the above-listed documents (e.g., articulate within the scope of what is already going on; what VPs must work toward in their portfolios).
- The report of the potential goals will serve as a basis for discussion to move towards action on Operational Framework at the next Council meeting.

