

A meeting of the Fair Trade Steering Committee was held on Monday 11th April, at 3.30pm to 4.30pm, 215 Grattan Street, Boardroom.

Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies

1.1 Attendance

Phillip Batterham, Ben Neville, Thomas Feng, Matt Stewart, Bjornn McCarthy, Kate McDonald, Emily Newton

1.2 Apologies

Emma Crane, Adrian Ford, Monique Edwards, Daniel Sullivan, Greg Pozza, Christopher Clarke, Danielle Rostan-Herbert.

2. Welcome

B. Neville

Ben Neville welcomed members to the meeting, and facilitated an introduction.

3. Fairtrade on campus history

P. Batterham

Due to the amount of new members around the table, Phil provided a background to how the university became Fairtrade accredited in 2011 (including the important progressing from presenting to the University Executive Team to the University Senior Executive Team.

4. Sustainability Plan Feedback prompts

T. Feng

Thomas discussed the Sustainability Plan is now live and encouraged feedback about the University's FT commitment to be provided as feedback (in 'Operations Section') in developing the Sustainability Plan. This encouraged conversation about how the Steering Community can influence enforcement in FT contractual obligations.

ACTION: Phil to send Ben original documents and Ben to lead a formal FTSC action response from this. These include original VC commitments.

5. UN-Aspire/FT Student Club

P. Batterham

There was discussion about the FT market which was organised in a meeting prior with student clubs engaged in FT (this market will be on the 11th May). This was followed by discussion of developing a UN-Aspire club which other universities have around the world. The conversation was based around whether it would be worth it to establish another international development style club, or whether it was more beneficial to have clubs working on existing campaigns ultimately linked to an MDG (for example, MDG 8: 'Develop a Global Partnership for Development' which includes the scope of FT). Currently, the FT Steering Committee is under-resourced but this will be reviewed after the FT Market.

6. GSA Strategy

B. McCarthy

Bjornn shared the GSA's strategy for how to engage people in ethical decision making that involves 6 specific questions, to encourage critical decision making about purchases.

ACTION: Bjornn to send Emily the two GSA SRN contacts- to see if they are wanting to get involved in FT Fortnight Market in any capacity.

7. Fairtrade clothing

RMIT and Deakin University have Fairtrade clothing (from Etiko) often at the same cost of Melbourne University's non-fairtrade clothes (uniforms, merchandise). Mention that using

university status competition could be a motivational point for the University of Melbourne to improve its fairtrade procurement with regards to clothes.

This conversation also prompted discussing what should be the scope for improving FT on campus. Currently, the commitment just outlines FT coffee and tea for 50% of coffee and tea staff purchases. Clarification around this (whether to set targets for FT clothing, sportswear etc) will be useful when a FT Alliance/UN-Aspire group is created.

ACTION: Bjornn to email Bardie information about clothing procurement. Bardie's email is: abarclay@student.unimelb.edu.au.