

Fairtrade Steering Group – Spring Term Meeting

Tuesday 7 February 2023

1. Minutes of Autumn term meeting (attached)

- Please let me know of any omissions or amendments required.

2. Fairtrade 2022/23 statement – (attached)

- Completed for recertification April – June
- Signed off by RUSU President - Sheldon Allen, RUSU Environment & Ethics Officer – Phoebe Barker and Mark Fellowes - Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic Planning & Resource)
- New policy has been added to the Fairtrade Teams Files [Fairtrade Statements](#)
- **Action:** Anna Glue/Jackie Simpson – could you add the 20/21, 21/22, 22/23 statements to the Sustainability [UoR Fairtrade website](#) so the assessors can see the historical statements
- New content this year – References to:
 - o The UN Sustainability Goals that we are working towards as an organisation
 - o The wider University Environmental Strategy
 - o The important teaching and research that is already going on here at UoR in ICMA, SAGES and SAPD that includes Fairtrade and ethical sourcing as part of the curriculum
 - o The Red Sustainability Award for students

3. Actions required for Fairtrade Re-certification in Spring 2023 (attached)

- Information about Fairtrade and ethically sourced products sold on campus added to the spreadsheet
- Photos and evidence added to the Fairtrade Teams evidence folder
- This task is almost complete for the certification from April to June

4. Recertification Student assessors

- Elena Fernandez-Lee sent info from last year about student what assessors will do and time required. 2023 registration site and info to be made available soon.
- Training is 2 hours and assessing will take up to 6 hours for 2-4 students
- Sent info on student assessor recruitment info to Leonie Fisher (Red Sustainability Award), Sheldon and Phoebe to assist us with assessor recruitment. Will advertise the posts via the careers teams in the school and tell students it can count towards their Red award.
- Run a campaign to get student auditors. This can go through the sustainability award and perhaps advertise with RUSU also. April 16th applications in, auditor training 20th and 25th of April can choose between both. 21st of April toolkit needs to be in. 26th and June 2nd audit and results between 5th and 30th of June.

Re-certification Key Dates

Student auditor application deadline Red Sustainability Award – Gateway for recruiting, Elena suggestions on wording	Sunday 16 April
Student auditor training (two identical sessions)	Thursday 20 April Tuesday 25 April
Toolkit submission deadline	Friday 21 April
Audit window	Wednesday 26 April to Friday 2 June
FTUC staff team review and compilation of final reports	Monday 5 June to Friday 30 June
Final reports sent to institutions	By Friday 30 June

5. SMART Action Plan

- SMART action plan template provided by Elena Fernandez-Lee from Fairtrade Organisation
- To be updated by EC and published on UoR Fairtrade website in preparation for the recertification from April to June.
- RUSU to share RUSU SMART targets as well as they may feed into our certification.

6. Fairtrade Events

- We need input from the group on ideas, planning and organisation of a Fairtrade fortnight event at end of Feb/early March – ideas to EC ASAP please.
- Fairtrade fortnight is end of Feb 27th - March 12th
- Mark Laynesmith will be entering a Fairtrade quiz round (with prize, probably a voucher for RISC) into the RUSU quiz evening during the fortnight (Thursday 2nd March) and hosting a Pancake Day drop-in event with Fairtrade toppings (21 Feb, 5-7pm in the Chaplaincy)
- Need to running an innovative campaign outside of the fortnight.
- Would Co-op and on-site catering outlets be willing to contribute a few items and/or departments be able/willing to contribute the cost of an item to a Fairtrade hamper and anyone who enters to win it will receive an email with info about/promoting Fairtrade practices and products? ...Can we tie this in with the RUSU Student Sustainability event at end of Feb?

7. Academic teaching and research

- Mark Laynesmith reached out to a number of academics after the Oct 2022 meeting as we have had responses from many academics who include information about Fairtrade in their curriculum / teaching
- EC has collated info about each area of activity so that we can include in our recertification and also perhaps could link to their course info from the UoR Fairtrade website.

Simone Varotto – ICMA degree in Sustainability to be offered 23/24 at ICMA – MSc Climate Change, Sustainable Business and Green Finance at the ICMA Centre. This is a collaboration with the Meteorology Department of the University.

Ruth Pugh IMPACT – Has further analysed research interests within the P&R research theme, and how they relate to real world challenges. We have a growing number of researchers interested in corporate ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), and its lack of standardisation in terms of reporting. Our next steps will be to collectively look to see who to engage with across non academic sectors, understand the ‘on the ground’ challenges further, and strategically target stakeholders who ‘own’ these problems and can effect real world change through co-designed research. Industry is a key player, as well as policymakers, so I think subsequent engagement with Tony’s will be valuable.

Luke Elson Philosophy – Teaching 2nd year Philosophy ethics module in Spring term 2023 on Ethics of Fairtrade. EC asked for synopsis of course for evidence. Luke has provided slides.

Jim Ormond Corporate Social Responsibility SAGES – Fairtrade covered as part of 1st year course on Human Geography: theories and debates

Michael Goodman Human Geography SAGES – Fairtrade covered in Consumption, Politics and Space. Having done his dissertation on Fairtrade and ways it works to create caring networks and how it markets to consumers, Mark has asked Mike to see if he’d be willing to be a speaker on more caring and compassionate economies more generally through other sorts of relationships, especially community gardens, food banks, community kitchens and more caring animal/livestock systems (i.e. vegetarianism and veganism).

8. Fairtrade signage and stock

- Since the last meeting EC has asked Martin Batt, Steve Charley, Gary Adams for the following stock and point of sale info for our recertification documentation:
 - o List of the Fairtrade products we have in stock in our on campus outlets – Requested from Martin, Troy
 - o Pictures of merchandising/point of sale of Fairtrade products at our outlets
 - o Sales figures of Fairtrade products
 - o Any plans for any other Fairtrade or ethically sourced products to be added to our ranges?
- We have a gap in Fairtrade cotton on campus – merchandising tender coming up – flagged to Category manager to try to include this as a requirement if possible.
- Asking if our Graduation gown provider making any efforts on ethically sourced fabrics, use of Fairtrade cotton, sustainable cleaning of the gowns etc.
- Does RUSU have any Fairtrade cotton merchandise?

9. Communications

- Ask RUSU, Sustainability team, Procurement and others to post on their social media about upcoming Fairtrade events once confirmed
- Pull together evidence of tweets etc. from the last year for assessors