

# Fairtrade Steering Group – Spring Term Meeting

March 30 2023

**Attendees:** Erin Cooper (Chair), Gary Adams, Martin Batt, Steve Charley, Leonie Fisher, Anna Glue, Matt Jones, Mark Laynesmith, Jackie Simpson, Oliver Thompson,

**Apologies:** Sheldon Allen, Phoebe Barker, Sarah Cardey, Luke Elson, Michael Goodman, Zainab Khan, Martin Mikhail, Ruth Pugh, Wendy Neale, Amrit Saggu, Troy Stewart, David Sutton

## 1. Update from Fairtrade Fortnight – Erin Cooper, Mark Laynesmith

Erin Cooper and Mark Laynesmith provided updates on the recent Fairtrade Fortnight events, engagement and prizes.

## 2. Additional Fairtrade Event – Details from Wendy Neale on Environmental Sciences event

Erin Cooper provided details from Wendy Neale at SMPCS about an additional annual Sustainability residential workshop event called *A joint workshop for Scenario and Science and Solutions for a Changing Planet DTP Students*. It is held for first year PhD students in the UoR Scenario DTP and Imperial College's SSCP DTPs – This annual event meets one of our re-accreditation criteria. Additional details below.

Overview

“Innovating for Sustainable Development” is a 3-day residential workshop is run jointly by the [Scenario Doctoral Training Partnership](#) and [Imperial College's Science and Solutions for a Changing Planet Doctoral Training Partnership](#).

Using the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) as a framework, PhD students meet with representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), policymakers and business and use innovation techniques to develop a solution to address one of the SDGs. Students work in teams and pitch their ideas to a panel at the end. We run the workshop each year for first year PhD students.

Attendance:

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Scenario | 18 in person plus 4 online |
| SSCP     | 15 in person plus 4 online |

The event will be held again this year in Winchester on June 19-21 2023.

## 3. Preparation for Re-accreditation Assessment April-June 2023

- a. **SMART Action Plan and Progress Report** - EC reported that the plans are almost complete and will be shared with the Steering Group and uploaded on to the Fairtrade website in time for the assessment in April 2023.
- b. **Student Assessors** – EC reported that the advertisement for to sign up and complete training has been sent out. Post meeting note: 4 UoR students have applied to carry out our assessment which is great news.
- c. **Evidence for Re-accreditation** – EC reported that all of the evidence for our re-accreditation in April / May 2023 will be saved in the Teams space and uploaded to the Fairtrade/SOS submission tool by April 21 deadline.  
ML reported that Co-op also held a FTF raffle – EC to ask Troy for results of that event for our evidence file.

#### 4. Key Dates for Re-accreditation

EC provided an overview of the key dates for our re-accreditation in Spring 2023. AG reported that the People & Planet criteria for evaluation will come out this Spring and we are hoping that it hasn't changed significantly in this area. The People & Planet evaluation takes place in July 2023 so the receipt of the results of the Fairtrade re-accreditation in June 2023 will be tight.

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Student auditor application deadline<br>Red Sustainability Award – Gateway for recruiting, Elena suggestions on wording | Sunday 16 April                       |
| Student auditor training (two identical sessions)   | Thursday 20 April<br>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. Lessons learned and plans for next year

EC reported that a number of lessons have been learned this year during the first year as Chair of the Steering Group. The main one is that the division of responsibility to meet the re-accreditation requirements next year will need to be split between team members to take ownership of areas and report back.

The group members contributed the following feedback:

- LF can help to publicise Fairtrade volunteer opportunities, events etc. via the Awards team – and student contribution can count towards to their Red Award – e.g. they could create video content about Fairtrade, hold stalls in in Library foyer, run an event or speak at Student summit etc.
- The group agreed that we need more student involvement next year through societies, sustainability award, RUSU comms (RUSU/Awards Team)
  - o Christian Union society is very motivated
  - o UN SDG society may be keen
- RUSU to confirm if Student Sustainability Summit will go ahead next year (Sheldon/Phoebe)
- Sustainability Team is keen for us to hold an event during the Green Festival in Nov (AG/JS)
- Invite student societies to attend this Steering Group meeting – come up with an event that we can support them with (EC/SA)
- ML will plan another RISC event around Christmas at xmas market (ML)
- Procurement and RUSU need to look at Fairtrade Cotton offering for next year (EC/SA)
- Merchandise tender will be run in 23/24 – ensure that ethically produced items included (EC)

- EC to speak to Fairtrade Foundation about criteria for certified products as sometimes our suppliers have equivalent or better certified products than Fairtrade. Define what does ethical mean? Should discuss this with People & Planet too – different certifications are added to different commodities e.g. BLab, BCorp, Soil Association, RSPCA Assured, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), Vegan, Red Tractor, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) (EC)
- Work more closely next year with Tom McCann to monitor student work on Fairtrade. (EC)
- Speak to Dylan Park, Stuart Black about the ESD workstream ask if they know of any other students / academic work taking place. (EC)
- Look further into how Decolonisation of our curriculum ties into Fairtrade activities. (TBC)
- Incorporate Fairtrade activities into the Annual Sustainability Report (in addition to the Responsible Procurement section) to help with the reporting criteria requirements. (AG)

## 6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Thurs 29 June** when we will hopefully have our re-accreditation results.

Proposed agenda:

- Update from Fairtrade Recertification
- Plans for 2023/24 Fairtrade Fortnight and Additional event
- Division of responsibility
- Date of Autumn term meeting