

Fairtrade Steering Group – Autumn Term Meeting

Tuesday 18 October 2022

Minutes

- 1. Introductions – particularly to our new RUSU members, academics, Co-op representative**
Group members introduced themselves and explained their interest/activity related to Fairtrade.
- 2. Renewal of our Fairtrade 2022 statement and UEB signature**
EC explained that we are reviewing the statements of other HE organisations to see if there is anything else that we can/should include in our statement.
 - 22/23 statement has been sent for sign off by Mark Fellowes and RUSU president Sheldon Allen for sign off
 - Once signed, Sustainability team to publish on UoR Fairtrade website.
- 3. Fairtrade Recertification in Spring 2023**
 - EC reported that she has updated spreadsheet of all certification criteria attached with actions and owners.
 - SMART action plan template provided by Elena Fernandez-Lee 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.

Recertification Student assessors

- EC asked Elena Fernandez-Lee from Fairtrade about what assessors will do so we can include that in recruitment info to attract more UoR students to get involved.
- Asked for length and format of student assessor training.
- Send student assessor recruitment info to Leonie Fisher (Red Sustainability Award) and RUSU to assist us with assessor recruitment.
- 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

- 4. Fairtrade Events**
 - EC explained that 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

- Need to running an innovative campaign outside of the fortnight. Another University did a fairtrade hamper and auctioned it off...Can we tie this in with Student Sustainability event in Feb?
- Mark reported that we could do a Fairtrade Christmas market same day as Christmas light switch on with Risc and/or we could run an event on Sat 19th Nov Masters Msc Open day

5. Academic teaching and research

- EC reported that one area that we need more information about is academic teaching and research related to Fairtrade and ethical sourcing.

[Post meeting note]

- 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 asked for more 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.
- **Leanne Ley ICMA** – degree in Sustainability to be offered 23/24 at ICMA – name to be provided
- **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 ethics module in Spring term 2023 on Ethics of Fairtrade. EC asked for synopsis of course for evidence.

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).

6. 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
 - o Pictures of merchandising/point of sale of Fairtrade products at our outlets
 - o Sales figures of Fairtrade products

- 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?

7. 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