

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Green Energy Fee Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

VU567

**Committee Members Present:** Sara Richards, Chair (AS VP Student Life), Fabiola Arvizu (AS VP for Academic Affairs), Nicole Brown (Faculty Senate Representative), Grace Wang (Faculty Senate Representative), Neil Baunsgard (Student-at-large), Rick Benner, Evan Fowler (Student-at-large), Kevin Majkut (Director of Student Activities), Kathryn Freeman (GEF Grant Program Coordinator), Seth Vidana

**Committee Members Absent:** Jason Austin (ESP Director),

**Guest(s):** Sarah Philips (GEF Education Coordinator)

**Sara Richards, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.**

**MOTIONS:**

- GEF-II-F-02**      **Move to continue purchasing RECs from our current provider, NextEra, at \$.75 per REC in an amount equivalent to the projected electrical use for Calendar Year 2012, which is approximately 40,000,000kWh or 40,000 RECs**
- GEF-II-F-03**      **Move to adopt the new Green Energy Fee process in principle with the anticipation that a more formal document will be put together by the Office of Sustainability.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for November 16, 2011 will be approved at the next meeting.

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. RECS**

Majkut said that he thought this Renewable Energy Credit (REC) purchase was a really great deal but he suggested that it would be helpful to look over our REC purchasing philosophy for the next time around. Vidana agreed. Fowler asked to clarify how much money would be saved from this action. Vidana said that the price went from about \$60,000 to around \$30,000. He did not know the difference between NextEra and Puget Sound Energy. Freeman asked how long the RFP process takes. Vidana said that it takes about 4 months. Majkut said that purchasing RECS was a good investment since we are unable to purchase energy that has been created in a "green" way.

*MOTION GEF-II-F-02 by Wang*

*Seconded by Fowler*

Move to continue purchasing RECs from our current provider, NextEra, at \$.75 per REC in an amount equivalent to the projected electrical use for Calendar Year 2012, which is approximately 40,000,000kWh or 40,000 RECs

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0      Action:Passed

**B. New Process**

Freeman gave a brief update on the projects. The solar panel project went to bid. The plan for the solar array is that it will be completed during spring break. The preliminary

estimate on the LED lighting came back really high so more research is being done on that. The hydration stations will be installed from January to March. The paper towel composting is currently creating signs for this pilot program. The hand dryer project is still in formal estimate and nothing has come back yet.

In regards to the new process, Baungard addressed his continued concern with the first bullet point. He has been trying to wrap his head around the committee choosing the project ideas and he still thinks this will be too limiting to student interests. Freeman said that she and Vidana want to try and have open project recommendations as well as guided ones. Vidana said he sees the challenges that Baungard has presented. He suggested working on a ratio of guided projects to original projects or starting with an open project recommendation and moving into a closed one later on. Arvizu suggested making the closed section a competition to entice students to become engaged. Freeman said she was hoping for this new process to be an overarching strategy. Richards said that she feels like this will engage students more by giving them guidelines for a direction to achieve. Wang agreed, but she wants to allow for student creativity as well. (Benner entered at 2:36), Richards said that these issues will be things that Philips can take on in her job. (Brown entered 2:37) Fowler said that he would like to see projects targeted towards the goals of the master plan. He thinks students would like this direction. Philips said this would be great at aiming the change of behaviors. Baungard mentioned the challenges of this fee because of the inability to hire staff or pay for reoccurring maintenance; this brought about the suggestion that pushing for educational campaigns for green change in addition to physical campus changes would also work to reduce the footprint of Western. Philips says that she thinks this challenge would hopefully spark a lot of creativity. Philips asked about the internship process and how this may be implemented. (Seth Vidana left 2:44) Freeman said that this is tricky. She said that credited things would require going to all colleges so the requirements could be solidified. She then suggested that the students would take an Independent Study. Benner suggested moving forward with the rest of the process and take the rest of the year to figure out the particulars with the internship as we go. Arvizu explained that this could turn into a long process. Philips asked if the same goals would follow through a contract situation. Freeman said that the internships incent student involvement. Brown suggested an internship committee that would be compiled of 4-5 faculty representatives, sufficing as a service commitment for faculty, and then those faculty members could also be the advisors of the Independent Study Program (ISP) with a rough one-year commitment. Arvizu's concern with this being an ISP would be for crediting properly, so she suggested having both a credited and non-credited option. Freeman also mentioned the stipend option. Baungard asked if this spread out the pool of applicants. Freeman said this really depended on you were looking at the width of involvement or the depth of their involvement. Freeman said that this process is trying to do both as much as possible. Philips said she is worried about the complexity. She wants to see processes happening this year and wants to know if that will be possible. Freeman expressed that she is unsure of how the unpaid internship would be created. Freeman said that Vidana said that this program would fit in with Huxely's. She would have to look into the process of creating the internship. Baungard asked if the proposal would be the exact wording or if it's more moldable. Freeman said it would follow this but with a few clarifications made; funding, etc. She thinks things can be changed as they go. Freeman said work can be done over the break on this document. Freeman suggested reaching out to Western Front and even Western Today to make announcements about the changed process. Majkut expressed that he still has concerns with a one gap focus. He also had a problem with step 4 in the new proposed process. Freeman said there needed to be a shift in focus on the project rather than the money that was to be spent. Majkut wants to know how we decide in the beginning what our financial strategy will be. Wang asked if the

RFPs could be closed if there was not enough money left. Freeman said there would be a scaling of the funds and an adjustment to the scopes of the projects. Benner suggested a budget per theme, then look at the project presentations, then decide to scale in case the totals are over or way under which will help preserve for the next themes, etc. Majkut suggested to Freeman to look at this over the break. Majkut asked about step 6 and Freeman said that there would be a design contingency. She said that if the final amount exceeds the contingency than it would come to the committee or otherwise be covered by the contingency. Majkut suggested passing a clean document and not passing this today. This would put more trust in the process. Freeman liked this point. She said there is another document that goes into more detail. Baungard asked what the approval of these documents means for the process. Wang moved to adopt the new process in principle with the anticipation with a more formal document will be put together by the Office of Sustainability.

*MOTION GEF-II-F-03 by Wang*

*Seconded by Fowler*

Move to adopt the new Green Energy Fee process in principle with the anticipation that a more formal document will be put together by the Office of Sustainability.

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0    Action:Passed

## **VI.    ADJOURN**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 4:00 P.M.**