

Western Washington University Associated Students
Green Energy Fee
Monday, April 22, 2013 **VU 460**

Present: Katie Savinski (Chair, VP for Student Life), Victor Celis (VP for Academics), Grace Wang, Ed Simpson, Nina Olivier (AS Environmental & Sustainability Program Associate Director), Regan Clover, Seth Vidana, Jacob Lesser, and Ashley Selvey. **Absent:** Nicole Brown and Sadie Normoyle (AS Green Energy Fee Education Coordinator)

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

MOTIONS

GEF-13-S-01 Approve the minutes from March 12, 2013. *Passed*

Katie Savinski, Chair of Green Energy Fee Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MO TION GEF-13-S -01 by Celis

Approve the minutes from March 12, 2013.

Second: Selvey

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

III. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. The Green Energy Fee

Majkut said the fee was approved by the students in the spring of 2010 for 5 years for a proposed fee of \$9 per students, but that it was changes to \$.75 per credit or up to \$7.00 per student. He said the committee needs to determine whether the fee should be increased, decreased, or kept the same. Majkut said that there is about \$701, 000 in the account now. He said there was about \$300,000 built up in the form of reserves when the fee was only used for Renewable Energy Certificates. He said that the cost of Renewable Energy Certificates has decreased. Majkut said the goal was to spend down the money in an effective way. He said the grant has morphed over time so there has not been a logical and steady spend down. He said spending down the funds this year has been quicker with the projects. He said there is \$275,000 left in the bank. Majkut recommended not increasing the fee because he anticipates revenue next year to be about the same as this year, which would get the reserves back up to about \$500,000. Lesser wondered about the solar power project. Majkut said that including that project would get the spend down of the GEF on the right track. Celis said that he supports keeping the fee the same because other fees are increasing for next year. He said that it would be nice to keep one fee down. Vidana talked about the staffing situation and the need for more staff time. He said that Clover and Normoyle have maxed out their hours. He said that it is up to the committee to determine how fast they want the GEF program to expand. He said there are reports that can be done to figure out ways to expand, but Clover will not get to those until the summer. Vidana said that the GEF Education Coordinator did not have much to do when the fee was first established, but now the position has a lot more tasks and responsibilities. Majkut said the cost of the coordinator position is about \$6,000. Vidana said that the committee might want to consider investing in more staff and hours. Majkut said that there is no money coming out of the Environmental & Sustainability Program to fund GEF related

projects. Wang said that \$6,000 is not a lot of money relative and that it would be worth the investment. Vidana said that one option is to increase Clover's hours from 35 hours to 40 hours. He also said that an option is to increase the AS GEF Education Coordinator position hours or hiring another position. Majkut said that it would be helpful to see what has been done and thinking about the educational materials. He said that it needs to be established what makes the program viable, what is missing, and what is each position able to do. He said the GEF Education Coordinator position is not able to work more unless they were made into a 4 quarter position. He said that most of the coordinators work 15 to 19 hours a week. He said that maybe an hourly position would be an option. Olivier suggested establishing a work study position, which might be a viable option. She said that there has been a similar issue in the past with the Environmental Center and that establishing a work study position would be ideal. She said that Normoyle is already stretched thin in terms of hours. Vidana said that establishing a work study position would be a straightforward process and would take about a month. He said that a work study would be a cheaper alternative because the government is funding part of the compensation. Celis said that it is a form of financial aid. Olivier said there is a huge demand for work study positions and that there are many students who qualify for work study and are on the waitlist. Wang said that it would be great to be able to help students. Majkut said he is not sure how many students qualify for work study. He said that it can be a challenge to build a program around a work study position. Wang said that the position requires some technical knowledge and training needed. She said there is enough of a budget cushion that GEF could go work study, but that it is not needed. Selvey said that if GEF has the funds, then a salary position should be created to increase the number of students who can apply, which can help ensure that the most qualified individual gets the position. Majkut said that it seems that the committee doesn't want to limit the students who are able to qualify and apply for the job. Savinski said that students can turn down the work study if they get a job that pays more. Celis would like to see what adding 5 hours to Clover's position would accomplish. Savinski would like to see adding hours to Clover's position and creating a second position. Clover acknowledged that she would be willing to take on 5 more hours. Vidana said that there is enough money to cover another position. Celis said that a fee increase would need to be approved by the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees. Selvey said that even a \$1 increase per student would make a huge difference over all but not that much burden per student. Majkut said that the fee is based on per credit. He said that there is enough money in the reserves and that there is really no justification for asking for more money. He said that it might be different if the solar project costs are deducted from the total. Clover said that the committee is responsible for assessing the fee every year. Vidana said that the committee does not have enough experience in the area to make the assessment and that a full project completion is needed. Clover said that it would be nice to do projects every year, but that she was worried that there would not be enough time. Lesser said it would be nice to have a breakdown of what folks are doing and how much it would cost.

B. Updates

Clover said that large grants were awarded last week. She said that there is a press release going out. She said that she will be submitting the final paperwork to Facilities and Management. Clover also reported that the small grants have started their process. She said the LEED project had their first work party. She said the Built To Last Picture Show had a deadline for the project recently. She said that this team has scheduled three movies for the next three weeks. Clover said that GEF paid for the movie rights. She said that the Green Lighting the Black Box project is setting up and that GEF will be getting rebates soon. The Green Residence Certification Pilot materials have been ordered, there are a few spots available, and there is a website. She said that Project Mug has made some mugs and ran them through the dishwasher so they know it works. She said that Earth Day was last Saturday and

that there were a lot of great ideas. Clover said that May 30th is the Green Energy Fee awards and exposition. She said that it will be in the Skybridge of the AIC West at 4:30pm. She said that all of the teams will be there. She said that she will keep everyone updated on details. Selvey asked about the other two small grant projects. Clover said that she met with both of the teams and talked about all of the points that the committee wanted them to think about. She said that one of the teams wanted to reapply in the fall and the other team did not respond. She said that she emailed the second team telling them she hopes they reapply in the fall.

V. ACTION ITEMS

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

TBD

VIII. ADJOURN

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:33pm