

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Green Energy Fee  
Monday, May 6, 2013**

**VU 460**

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

**Advisor:** Kevin Majkut

**Secretary:** Kaylee Galloway

**Guest:** Stephen Harvey and Brian Maskal from Western SOLutions

*Katie Savinski, Chair of Green Energy Fee Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**III. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Western SOLutions Proposal**

Steven Harvey, representative from the Western SOLutions Proposal, met with the Ree Center. He said the Ree Center requested a 50/50 partnership with the GEF for maintenance fees up to 2015. He said that if GEF can pay 50% until 2015, then a plan for partnership can be developed after that. Lesser wondered how that would work with the GEF charter. Savinski said there can be exceptions. Olivier said that it is not required after 2015, but that it is recommended. Lesser wondered if there was a way to track energy savings. Harvey said that there was a way to do that. He said that before 2015, it was said to save \$ .60 per therm, but the Ree Center doesn't want to use that number in determining the maintenance fee. Oliver said they are striving to keep the student recreation fee down. Lesser said that if this projects turns out to save them money, then the GEF should not have to pay more. Harvey said they pay a base rate for electricity. Majkut said funds are only to be used in ways outlined in the fund guideline document. He said the document said that operational, maintenance or ongoing costs are not included. Clover said the earliest construction could start is November 2013. Oliver said construction would be when the Ree Center is shut down in summer of 2014. Harvey said ideally construction would be summer 2014 when the steam is shut down. Lesser said that it sounds like the GEF would be funding for about 6 months to a year. Majkut said the fee runs through the summer. He said you can interpret the rules, but you cannot waive them. He said the safest thing to do is to recommend to the board who would be able to waive the rules. Savinski said her concern is funding the maintenance for a year and then re-establishing a partnership, and then after 2015 if the GEF says no, then what will happen to the project. Harvey said that then the project would keep going. Savinski said that something could happen and the Ree Center might not fund the fix, then it was a lot of money for a project that only lasts a couple years. Harvey said that case studies have laid out common problems to be aware of such as plumbing. Savinski said it is important to establish a definition for maintenance. She said that this is a large sum of money, but that an agreement needs to be

made. Clover said that there was the project owner form that describes some details. Savinski is worried about spending a lot of money on this project if a cap is not determined. Majkut said these funds need to be seen as a gift. He said that the building owners don't think of it as a gift rather a project that they do not have to pay for. He said that the solar project is great and the maintenance costs would be expanded. He said that there will be more conversation about defining maintenance costs and to figure out the best way to go about it. Savinski said that it is difficult to justify funding maintenance costs for one project and not the others. She said that the other projects would want their maintenance costs covers. Clover said that is was calculated for each project as the cost of annual maintenance plus the replacement cost, which is how \$9,400 for this project was determined. Lesser said that this would end up being 6 months. Savinski said that she is concerned about what would happen later. Harvey said the Ree Center has requested the GEF to fill out a project owner form with what the GEF decides, then the Ree Center will reconsider. Savinski said that if they do not understand that the project will be implemented in 2014, then they are not really getting 2 years of maintenance fees. She said that it would not be different then the deal already established. Celis said that he doesn't see this causing any issues. Olivier said that this is their stipulation and they should know what they are getting. Selvey said that it is important to understand what they want before the GEF makes their decision. She said that establishing the partnership expectation would be best. Celis recommended having representatives from the REC center come to the GEF meeting. Celis said also that he would like the cap. Selvey said that the cap would set some insurance for the GEF. She said that it allows both sides to win. Lesser said that it is the same amount of money over a longer period of time. Celis said that if the project is implemented in 2014, then to fund the maintenance for a year. He said that the GEF agreed to pay maintenance for 1 year for the other projects. Lesser wondered if this should be tabled. Katie said that this is information and there is no quorum to vote. Celis said that the project would realistically start in 2014, then maintenance can be covered for the one year rather than 50/50. He said that it is essentially the same as the other projects because through 2015 is one year. Majkut wondered about the re-negotiation after 2015. He said that the GEF will not know where it is. Lesser said that this GEF committee can have a recommendation if the GEF is renewed. Majkut said the committee can go back into negotiations. The committee agreed that it would be good to have the Ree Center representatives at the next meeting. Celis requested access to the project owner forms. He said that it is clear that GEF wants to have this project. Savinski said Invite Marie and Adam to the next week to talk to the GEF about some of the questions and concerns discussed.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Updates**

She said that she brought copies of the project update form from the smaller grant project teams. She said the Built to Last Picture show had a contest and selected the best design for stickers. She said they will be announcing the winner at their last movie showing.

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm*