

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Green Energy Fee  
Wednesday, May 15, 2013**

**VU 460**

**Present:** Katie Savinski (Chair, VP for Student Life), Victor Celis (VP for Academics), Grace Wang, Ed Simpson, Regan Clover, Seth Vidana, Jacob Lesser, and Ashley Selvey

**Absent:** Nicole Brown, Nina Olivier (AS Environmental & Sustainability Program Associate Director), Sadie Normoyle (AS Green Energy Fee Education Coordinator)

**Advisor:** Kevin Majkut

**Secretary:** Kaylee Galloway

**Guest:** Stephen Harvey (Representative from Western SOLutions), Brian Maskal (Representative from Western SOLutions), Robby Eckroth (Incoming VP for Student Life), and Adam Leonard (Representative from Campus Recreation)

**MOTIONS**

**GEF-13-S-02** Approve the minutes from April 22, 2013. *Passed.*

**GEF-13-S-03** Approve the minutes from May 6, 2013. *Passed.*

**GEF-13-S-04** Approve 219,511.58 for Western SOLutions project and provide funding for one year of maintenance costs as explained in owner form. *Passed.*

*Katie Savinski, Chair of Green Energy Fee Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MO TION GEF-13-S -02 by Celis*

Approve the minutes from April 22, 2013.

Second: Lesser                      Vote: 6-0-0                      Action: Passed

*MO TION GEF-13-S -03 by Celis*

Approve the minutes from May 6, 2013.

Second: Lesser                      Vote: 6-0-0                      Action: Passed

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

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Western SOLutions**

Harvey said that they talked to Adam and Marie about the project at the Ree center. He said that there were two stipulations: 1) GEF partner in maintenance costs until 2015 and 2) recommendations to partner after 2015. Clover said that she called Simpson and asked how long it would take for the project to be implemented. She said that he said it would be at least three-four months until it is built. She said the earliest would be November and maybe not until next spring. Celis said that the project owner form funds maintenance fees for one year as a standard. Clover said that the GEF goes back to the vote in 2015. Leonard said that it would be ideal to at least have something confirmed through 2015. Clover said that \$9,400 during the first year was the estimate. She said that was a conservative estimate but that would be the maximum. Harvey said that it was estimated to be \$3,800 for maintenance. Leonard said the Ree would be comfortable with the \$9,400 for maintenance. Celis wondered if it would be adopted in whole. Clover said that since it is only a year, GEF can fund all of the maintenance. Wang said she was uncomfortable about creating precedent that would be picking up extra

commitments when other projects did not have it as an option. She said she is supportive of what the committee wants, but is curious why Western SOLutions gets more. Lesser said that funding maintenance for a year was something done for all projects. He said that because of the timeline, the ree center is getting a better deal than proposed and that it is standard. Majkut said that finding an appropriate balance is important. He said the committee gets the project up and running and that there can be further discussion about the project. Wang said that for future projects, the project owner form is important. Selvey said that a concern was the partnership and what that would mean in the future if GEF is renewed. Leonard said that the Ree hoped the GEF would continue a 50% partnership on the maintenance fee after 2015. He said that the Ree Center has their own maintenance costs and that they want to keep the fee down for students. He said that he does not want the Ree Center to burden the students with the maintenance costs. He said that the Ree Center has had to work with increase in prices. He said that they are trying to be good stewards of the money. He said that they are hoping the project will save them money. Lesser said that maybe those savings can go towards maintenance costs. Leonard said that they do not know what the savings will look like. He said that when those savings are determined, allocating those savings can be done later. Vidana said that the projections are based on solid information and that it should not be considered speculations. He said that there are solar energy projects built around the Pacific Northwest and around the world. He said that it will not be 0 savings. He said that he would like to see the savings go towards maintenance fees. Leonard said that Ree Center might be looking at changing the steam release in the future. He said that in the long term, the Ree Center might not need the partnership. He said that there is no commitment from GEF after 2015. Majkut said that there is money in the reserves and that it can be spent down. Wang said it seems unlikely that the GEF is not renewed. Majkut said that he sees this as a good faith effort and reconsider the efforts in 2015 and to actively work with the Ree Center. He said that this does not seem unreasonable. Celis said that this could be written in the project owner forms saying that after 2015 will be reconsidered. He said that he is not comfortable with making a decision now for 2015. He said that a stipulation can be added to the project form. Lesser said that a year form installation will be the end of 2015. He recommended not changing it because then there would need to be an exception. Leonard said that steam shut down in 2014 would be ideal. Simpson said that everything in the project can be done and then there can be a cross over. Harvey said that the pool might only need to be down for a day. Leonard said that he is not sure what the installation process looks like and what the impact would look like. He said Ree Center was anticipating about a week. The committee read the language of the stipulation added in the project owner form. Celis said there will be future conversation about partnership. Savinski would like to add something about strong encouragement for discussion. Leonard noted that Marie wanted that consideration mentioned in the project owner form. Savinski read the language. It stipulates that if the GEF is renewed, then GEF committee is strongly encouraged to discuss future financial partnership. Clovers said the ideal amount was \$219,511.58 was the ideal cost. She said that this would be for 12 collectors, can heat 25% of pool and spa and left over going to domestic hot water. Harvey said that 12 collectors was an estimate and that the maximum number of collectors is 20 which would cost more. Clover said the maximum was \$255,000.00 and the minimum was \$175,000.00. Majkut said that the budget could support any of those figures. Selvey wondered if increasing collectors would increase maintenance fee. Harvey said not necessarily. He said that a lot of the maintenance is going to be piping and that would not change with the collectors. Brian said it is based on how many systems are connected. Clover said that there would be \$6,000 for the collectors over 20 years. Stephen said that was for 12 collectors. Lesser wondered if it would be possible to add more collectors later. Harvey said that as long as the domestic hot water, pool, and spa are all tied together, and the piping capacity was sufficient, it would not be a difficult process.

Simpson agreed with Harvey. He said the most expensive cost is getting the crane out. Lesser is inclined to support the middle request. Leonard said that it would increase replacement cost with more collectors. Vidana gave a personal congrats for this team for all of their hard work. He said that this has been the longest effort and that they have been faced with many challenges. He said that they are very persistent and they have learned so much throughout the process. He said they have done a great job.

*MO TION GEF-13-S -04 by Lesser*

Approve 219,511.58 for Western SOLutions project and provide funding for one year of maintenance costs as explained in owner form.

Second: Wang                      Vote: 6-0-0                      Action:

## **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. GEF Grant Program Coordinator Hours**

Savinski said there is a breakdown to how Clover's time is currently spent and what could be done with an increase in hours. Lesser confirmed that this would increase position from 35 to 40 hours. Vidana said that Clover and Normoyle have prepared the document explaining how they spend their time and what still needs to be accomplished. He said that finalizing reports has still not been done due to a lack of time and that is a critical aspect of GEF. He said that this program is growing and the extra hours can be really helpful. He is requesting the committee pass those extra hours. Savinski said there has been conversation of creating another student position in the Office of Sustainability. Majkut said that this would be a work study so that it would not affect the GEF. Celis said there is more to be done, 5 hours would be beneficial and would alleviate some of the pressures. He said that the numbers needs to be calculated on how much it would cost. Lesser wondered if Clover already gets benefits. Clover said that she already has benefits. Majkut said that he estimates about \$6,000 annually would be added. Lesser wondered if there would be time this summer to catch up on work. Vidana said that was true in the past, but that there are several projects now that are starting. He said that there is more work to be done. He said that there has been a shift in gears. Clover said that there will be implementation of many of the projects that were passed this year. Wang said that there seems to be general support. Lesser wondered about the work study position. He wondered if there were any negatives or liabilities. Savinski said that it would not affect GEF funding and would alleviate some of the responsibilities of the GEF Education Coordinator. Clover said the difference is on the status quo scenario, the GEF Education Coordinator can do idea labs or marketing, but not both. She said that the extra position can help with that. She said added hours for her means 4 sets of small grants and one large. She said small grants would be due October, November, February and March. She said the large grant conceptual applications due in November and the finals applications due in March.

## **VII. OTHER BUSNIESS**

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 20, 2013

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

*The meeting was adjourned at 12:47pm*

Approved by Katie Savinski, AS VP for Student Life