

Western Washington University Associated Students Green Energy Fee Committee Meeting

Friday, October 25th, 2013

VU 460

Committee Members Present: Robby Eckroth, Chair (AS VP Student Life), Josie Ellison (AS VP for Academic Affairs), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Regan Clover (GEF Program Coordinator), Ashley Selvey (Student at Large), Ellen Zocher (Student at Large), Grace Wang (faculty), and Alyssa Macdonald (GEF Program Outreach Assistant)

Absent: Second Faculty Member, Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs), Nina Olivier (AS ESP Associate Director), Sadie Normoyle (GEF Education Coordinator)

Advisors: Kevin Majkut, Director of Student Activities

MOTIONS

GEF-13-F-01 Approve the minutes of Friday, October 11, 2013. *Passed.*

Robby Eckroth, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Additions/ Changes to the Agenda

III. Brief Introductions

IV. Approval of Last Week's Minutes

MOTION GEF-13-F-01 by Josie Ellison

Second: Grace Wang Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

V. Background

A. Annual Report

Regan Clover thought this document was a good way to tie together everything they did last year and use as a model for future years. She said since this is their first Annual Report she included a lengthy history section about the grant program and grants that have been awarded in the past. She said this document also describes staff positions and why more positions were added throughout the year. Wang asked if there is supposed to be another faculty representative. Eckroth has been reaching out to as many faculty as possible in order to fill the second faculty position. Clover is focusing on outreach to inform the campus that everyone is available to participate in the Green Energy Fee. She said last year they were able to visit 8 classrooms, reach over 200 students, and have 4 info sessions. She said last year for the first time they held the Green Energy Fee Grant Program Awards Expo, which was a great way to talk about projects the teams had been working on. Clover also created a brief financial summary. Kevin Majkut said the financial chart follows the plan. He said the plan was the program was going to take a while to get started so the amount they would be spending on projects should be raising up over time. Wang asked if the amount spent on REC's will continually stay the same. Vidana said right now there are a lot of RECs which makes the price low and they would have to wait to see what the market says in order to decide what the cost of RECs would be. He mentioned that as of now the REC funding is lower than the amount they spend on projects. Clover made a strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats analysis of the Green Energy Fee program. She mentioned staffing and the amount of available grant projects has changed. She also mentioned they are able to share their experiences with the campus like with the water bottle refill station project. Vidana

said the new water bottle refill stations around campus were not from the Green Energy Fee, but it was because people saw them and thought they were a good idea. He said this is an example of a project spreading after their work had been demonstrated around campus. Clover said all GEF events are now on the sustainability calendar. She put the Environmental and Sustainability Program events and sustainability events on one calendar to unify the campus. Grace suggested Clover connecting with Anna Kerry who does a lot of planning and scheduling with the Western Reads program because this year's book was about global climate change. She said there has been panels and other activities regarding this topic. Clover said that if anyone has comments or suggestions, she can incorporate them into the final draft and present it to campus. Seth hopes to hear feedback from the Goals and Outcomes document at the end of the year in order to put together a program the committee and students want to see. Clover said after the meeting will finalize the document and send it to the Sustainability Committee and AS board

B. Budget Review

Clover said there are two budgets, the operational budget (FXGEF) and one for project funds (FXGEPR). She said the FEGEF budget allocates staff time for herself and student staff. She mentioned that under "Goods and Services" they made estimates because they don't have exact numbers spent on services. She hopes that after this year they can come up with closer estimates. Majkut said as of now they are unable to make closer estimates because they don't have a lot of history with the current program. Clover said she included a page to justify how they came up each estimate. She said the FXGEPR budget includes money allocated for small grant proposals and projects they committed to last year. She said this is the sum of the Sustainable Dorm Room Project, Dashboard Project, and the Environmental Outreach Hydration Station Project. She said they cannot make any other predictions about the budget until their Grant Awards in May. Majkut asked how they are going to pay for this year's projects because the funds being allocated aren't for future projects. Clover said it is coming from the general fund that is not on the spreadsheets. She said the money allocated doesn't add up to the whole fund and the current estimate is just what they plan on spending. Majkut said they will have to decide how much they are going to allocate for large projects and how much they are planning are keeping in the reserves for the final Green Energy Fee year prior to renewal. He said they have enough money to operate the program and funding laid out for projects, so they are in good shape to have another exciting year. Clover added that applications for Large Grant Projects are going to be due on November 6th.

VI. Next Meeting Date: November 8th @ 2:00PM VU 460

VII. Adjourn

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 2:39 P.M.