

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

Friday, November 8, 2013

VU567

Committee Members Present: Robby Eckroth, Chair (AS VP Student Life), Josie Ellison, Vice Chair (AS VP for Academic Affairs), Regan Clover (GEF Grant Program Coordinator), Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Ashley Selvey (Student at Large), Ellen Zocher (Student at Large), and Grace Wang (Faculty Representative)

Absent: Alyssa Macdonald (GEF Program Outreach Assistant), Second Faculty Member, Sadie Normoyle (GEF Education Coordinator)

Advisor(s): Kevin Majkut, Director of Student Activities

MOTIONS

GEF-13-F-02 Approve the minutes of Friday, October 25, 2013

Robby Eckroth, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 2:07p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Additions/ Changes to the Agenda

III. Approval of Last Week's Minutes

MOTION ASB-13-F-02 by Grace Wang

Second: Selvey

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

IV. Discussion of Renewable Energy Credit Purchases

Kevin Majkut said the contract they have with Renewable Energy Credit Purchases is ending December 31, 2013. He said they need to decide if they want to rebid or extend the current contract. Majkut suggested the best idea would be to extend the contract for one year and a quarter. He thinks this is the best idea because the Green Energy Fee (GEF) will be up in Spring 2015 and there will be a new proposal for the continuation of the fee. He said they should discuss how RECs fit into the new GEF proposal before they decide if they want to start the rebidding process. He suggested there should also be a discussion of what they want to do with the REC process. He said RECs were initially purchased through Puget Sound Energy, but a decision was made to no longer purchase them locally. He said they should decide whether or not they should change back to purchasing RECs locally. Majkut asked if RECs could be used more beneficially. Seth Vidana said during the extension of their contract students will conduct research of the current science behind Renewable Energy Credits and how people view the value of RECs. He predicts this will occur from March to Summer Quarter. He said the research group will bring a recommendation to the committee and the board, and then next fall quarter they will request public feedback. He projected that next spring and summer, they will have a new contract in place. Vidana said this allows an opportunity for student involvement through the research and creation of the Request For Proposals (RFP). He said that an outcome may also occur where the campus decides they don't like RECs and want to spend the money another way. He said in 2005 to 2007 RECs

were popular, but since then there has not been a big discussion or interest about RECs. Vidana said as of now they spend \$40,000 a year on RECs which are totaled out to about 97 cents apiece. He said RECS are a market mechanism for increasing the bio-ability of wind power production. He explained that buying RECs makes wind farms financially solvent. This allows Western Washington University to negate carbon emissions by taking responsibility for contributing to environmental good. Vidana said Dan Haggren is currently trying to figure out if RECs are beneficial. He suggested inviting Dan Haggren to a committee sometime mid-winter quarter to discuss if RECs are still doing what they thought they would do. Majkut said when RECs were first introduced, they were seen as a temporary way for students to reduce carbon on campus. He said RECs were seen as something for the University Administration to maintain in the long run. He thinks they should also have a discussion about who would be responsible purchasing RECs in the future. Eckroth wondered if they do not use RECs, could they put the money towards building renovations to meet higher LEED requirements. Vidana said they can invest the money that was previously for RECs into different sustainable programs. Majkut said around Washington there is more of interest in wind energy. He envisions wind energy around Bellingham, such as the waterfront or Smoky Point. He also sees purchasing new RECs as an administrative decision. Simpson said there are lot of changes happening in the contract and suggests extending a new contract would be best.

V. Update on Large Grant Applications

Regan Clover said Large Grant Proposals were due Wednesday, November 6, 2013 and has received 3 applications. She said in the past they have received about eight proposals and four are chosen to go to the final stage. She suggested having the committee review these three applications as well as have a second proposal opportunity to see if there are any other project ideas. Clover has sent suggested edits to the proposals, which they are resubmitting back to her Wednesday, November 13th. Wang said she would like to look at the current proposals before opening it up for more proposals.

3 Proposal Summaries:

1. Make the laundry machines in the Fairhaven residence hall “Ozone” systems. “Ozone” systems will cause the laundry machines to run with hot water and detergent.
2. Install Bike Fix it station at the most commonly used bike racks.
3. Concert Hall and Main Stage new LED lighting system. The Concert Hall would be the pilot project because it is a type of lighting that has never been retrofitted before.

Clover went through the project communication and collaboration grading rubric for the proposals. She said if there are any wording or miscommunications to let her know so she can make changes. She said after the proposals come in, the committee will ask questions about them and invite teams in for a presentation. Clover said last year they had 15 minutes per proposal as well as time for questions. She suggested having the teams come in and present on November 22nd. She said next week the committee will go over the proposals and give the teams four questions to answer. Eckroth said he will send out the link for everyone to access the rubric and applications. Majkut said that if people wanted to see a bike rack station, there

is a station in the Outdoor Center.

VI. Next Meeting Date:

- Friday November 15th, 2013 VU 460

VI. Adjourn

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