

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

Friday, December 6, 2013

VU 567

**Committee Members Present:** Robby Eckroth, Chair (AS VP Student Life), Josie Ellison (AS VP for Academic Affairs), Regan Clover (GEF Program Coordinator), Ashley Selvey (Student at Large), Ellen Zocher (Student at Large), Grace Wang (faculty), and Sadie Normoyle (GEF Education Coordinator)

**Absent:** Nina Olivier (AS ESP Associate Director), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs)

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

## **MOTIONS**

**GEF-13-F-05** Approve the minutes of Friday, November 22, 2013. *Passed.*

**GEF-13-F-06** Move to approve the GEF Small Grant “Hydroponic Aquarium” as a consent item. *Passed.*

**Robby Eckroth, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.**

## **I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION GEF-13-F-05* By: Wang

Approve the minutes of Friday, November 22, 2013.

Second: Ellison                      Vote: 5 - 0 - 0    Action: Passed

## **III. Approval of Last Week’s Minutes**

## **IV. Consent Items**

### **-GEF Small Grant “Hydroponic Aquarium”**

Eckroth said they received answers to the questions brainstormed from last week’s meeting. He said this team will grow the seeds in cubes in which there would be no additional growing process. Wang says these are dirt cubes that eventually dissolve. Eckroth said this team had no firsthand experience growing plants hydroponically. Ellison said this doesn’t seem like a difficult process and thinks that firsthand experience with hydroponics may not be necessary. Clover said that an intern in the Environmental Center would like to be a participant maintaining the aquarium in the future. She said there is an Outback Center intern that would like to hold workshops for this project during Winter Quarter. She suggested they should both collaborate with one another. Eckroth said the Biology building and Facilities Management doesn’t see electricity costs being a problem. Clover said this team clarified the size that was presented in the proposal. She said their advisor, Peter Thut, recommended they contact Space Administration to guarantee they have access to the space presented in the proposal. She received a confirmation email this morning from Space Administration clarifying they have access to presented space in the Biology building. Normoyle wished there was more of a definite answer about who will take on this project in the future, but thinks this is a cool idea as well as a low risk project. Selvey said more people may be interested in maintaining this project when they see it displayed and in action. Eckroth suggested reaching out to bigger classrooms that require students to volunteer in the Outback and LEAD for class credit. Eckroth suggested coming up for a flexible plan for when the team graduates. Clover reminded

the committee that the team will submit a report and check in monthly. She said for the next couple quarters they will have time to think about who will continue on this project.

*MOTION GEF-13-F-06* By: Eckroth

Move to approve the GEF Small Grant “Hydroponic Aquarium” as a consent item.

Second: Ellison                      Vote: 5 - 0 - 0    Action: Passed

## V. Review and Discussion

### - GEF Large Grant “Cleaner than Soap”

Eckroth said it seems there will be a lot technical problems with this because these laundry systems are usually industrial laundry machines. Clover spoke with University Residences before this team filled out their proposal. She said University Residences explained that users will have to be taught on how to use these machines because there are different settings. She said these machines are usually used in circumstances where they would only set the machines to one setting, like at the REC Center or in hospitals. She said a concern the University Residences Manufacturer had would be residents not reading the instructions on how to use it, not get clean laundry the first time, and then stop using the machine. Clover said that University Residences does not think this is an appropriate location for this project. Ellison suggested placing these in the REC center would be cool to see and easier to work with. Clover said if this team wants to move on to the conceptual stage of this project, they need to prove that this project wouldn't hurt the tubes of the gaskets. Clover said that Seth Vidana mentioned he would like to see them do their studies for the REC center or Dinning Services. Selvey said that a location change would be necessary for the implementation of this project. She said doesn't see this working well enough for the being money invested in this project. She was also concerned about the Ozone in the air of the laundry room and needing to monitor that. Normoyle asked if the team had spoken to the REC Center or the Carver Academic Complex about implementing these laundry systems in those buildings. Clover said the REC Center would be willing to implement this project if it is shown to be successful somewhere else on campus. Eckroth said with the renovation of the Carver Academic Facility, this may be a good thing to implement. He suggested during the renovation they may be able to push for them to install these systems without having it be a Green Energy Fee Project. Clover said the first meeting of the quarter the teams typically present their project before they decide what to do, but if they don't think this project is ready they can hold off on them presenting to the committee. Eckroth would rather them make changes to their project before they have a presentation, since this project might not work out. Selvey suggested having the team look into if Facilities Management uses laundry systems and possibly installing them for their use. Eckroth said if these were implemented for Facilities Management use, there might not be any educational benefit because students wouldn't see or use them. Zocher asked if they can use these laundry system at a smaller scale having only a few machines be Ozone washers, so this way people could have a choice of what they could use. She said this way those who are interested in using them would take the time to learn how to operate them accurately. Eckroth was curious if Facilities Management have the knowledge to fix and maintain these types of laundry system. Clover said the vender the team spoke with was familiar with these machines. Zocher asked if fixing these machines would be in the Facilities Management contract and would they be willing to take on the task of fixing broken machines. Ellison said implementing a couple of machines in certain stacks in the Fairhaven Residence Halls might be enough of a foot in the door to get them implemented at the REC Center. Zocher said Environmental Health and Safety mentioned there would need to be an Ozone monitor. She wondered if this was actually a risk because the team did not mention this factor in their proposal. 2 Dittos.

Clover suggested telling the team that right now this proposal wouldn't be effective for residence halls, but they may be able to speak with University Residences to see if they could pilot one or two machines. Clover said University Residences suggested having the team contact their laundry vendor, and after contacting them they might learn more.

Questions from the committee:

1. Can we have Ozone machines in two stacks instead of the whole room?
2. Is Ozone a Risk?
3. What maintenance is required?
4. If the current laundry machine can be converted?
5. Did they contact Carver Academic Facility?

Clover suggested to treating this team as a rolling application. Normoyle said she doesn't want to give up on this project because it is a cool idea. Selvey agreed and added that this has very high educational potential.

#### - GEF Large Grant "Performance Hall Overhaul"

Eckroth mentioned this project has been done before, but on a smaller scale. Clover said this team was originally 2 groups with one wanting to convert the concert hall and the other wanting to convert the main stage. The two teams combine their proposals into one, which is why it is so large. Clover said Ed Simpson was in favor of this and Seth Vidana felt this was pushing the boundary on pilots since this type of project has been a pilot project before. Clover said the small grant pilot that was accomplished in the Spring converted two practice rooms. She said this is essentially the same project on a larger scale and a different venue. Clover said for the pilot project they didn't ask for maintenance and installation, but they are for this project proposal. She said with this project maintenance, they would need help from Facilities Management staff because large equipment may need to be operated. Clover said this project it considered a "public works" project because it will cost over \$90,000. She explained that this means it would have to go out to bid and they have to contract out to work rather than have Facilities Management install it. Zoher said she didn't know the team had successfully submitted a proposal about converted lighting systems before and would've submitted a different score if she knew this. She was under the impression they had no experience with lighting until it was mentioned at this meeting. Normoyle said even though this has been done on a smaller scale, she thinks this is a great project that will impact a lot of people because it is used by so many different students. She said if they don't fund this, than it probably wouldn't happen for a long time. Ellison added that the visibility is huge for this project because this space doesn't just affect students, but is also a public space for community members. 3 dittos. Clover mentioned that the team divided this proposal into 2 components because the lighting in both places are different. Normoyle said it would be great to have a highly visible project for the Green Energy Fee because some of the projects are hidden and she thinks people will get excited about this. Zoher said this project has a huge potential to save energy. Eckroth said in time he could see this project paying itself off. He said in the practice spaces they have to change the light bulbs about one time per year. Normoyle said the Green Energy Fee doesn't have to be used for just pilot projects, but it has been the precedent for the GEF. Eckroth said the idea GEF is to display projects to influence future renovations.

Questions:

1. Who pays for the replacement bulbs?
2. Where do they get their installation cost estimates from? Have you talked to Facilities Management?
3. Can you provide estimates on potential rebates forms this project?
4. Can you confirm by-in from the theatre department? Can you confirm having the same creative standards that the theatre department does now?
5. Do you have an education plan in mind/ can you elaborate on communication strategy?

- GEF Large Grant “Viking Cycle Fixit Stations”

Ellison likes this idea, but wonders if 20 stations is too many. Wang would like a census on how often they are utilized. Normoyle wants to know the possible locations of the 20 bike racks and how spread out they will be. Wang asked how often theft occurred. Clover said theft of pump heads were problem at the University of Oregon, but when they were replaced with cheaper pumps heads and the problem disappeared. Eckroth does not think the Outdoor Center has had any problems with theft. Eckroth suggested decreasing the amount of fixit stations and increase the amount money going towards of replacement parts. Ellison suggests placing some of these fixit stations in the dorm areas. Wang suggested that 5-7 fixit stations seem more reasonable. Selvey suggested putting in a few and then assess how high the demand is for them before they decide to install more. Normoyle wonders how often the Outdoor Center fixit stations gets used. Selvey said if they are placed on campus, they may be more accessible than the Outdoor Center station. Clover said the Outdoor Center recommends going around to each fixit station often to check for damage.

*Normoyle left 5:54*

Questions:

1. Where are you thinking of putting the bike racks? How spread out would they be?
2. Can you show us 20 spots mapped out with them prioritized?
3. Who would maintain them/ pay for part replacements if they break?
4. Who will be the overseer of the bike pumps?

**VI. Adjourn**

**- Next Meeting: January 7, 2014 @ 9am**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 2:58 P.M.**