

**Western Washington University Associated Students**  
**Green Energy Fee Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 11, 2014                      VU460

**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), Grace Wang (faculty), Nina Olivier (AS ESP Associate Director), and Sadie Normoyle (GEF Education Coordinator) Ellen Zoher (Student at Large)

**Absent:** Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager)

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

**Guest(s):** Stephen Harvey (Solar Thermal Project Team Lead), Sandy Fugami (Facilities Management Engineer)

**MOTIONS**

**GEF-14-W-03**            Approval of the Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> Minutes. *Passed.*

**GEF-14-W-04**            Approval of the \$160,000 overage for the Solar Thermal Project. *Passed.*

**Robby Eckroth, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Additions/ Changes to the Agenda**

**III. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes**

***MOTION GEF-14-W-03 by Ellison***

Approval of the January 6<sup>th</sup> minutes with the stipulation that the second bullet point includes the full title of the Performance Hall Overhaul Project.

Second: Selvey                      Vote: 4 - 0 - 0                      Action: Passed

**IV. Solar Thermal Project Funding Discussion**

Regan Clover said in Spring 2013 the Green Energy Fee (GEF) committee passed this Westerns Solutions project. She said this team passed their final application, was awarded \$219,500, and went through the final estimate and design phase this past Summer. She said of the \$219,500, \$86,000 was allocated to the design and engineering for Facilities Management and consultants as well as an estimated \$131,000 for the construction and materials. She said when the bids came in they were \$160,000 over the original estimated amount. Clover explained the reasons for this was due to a higher cost for the structural steel, the crane, and the general bid was higher than what the consultant estimated it would be. She said the team can't move forward with this project without another \$160,000. She suggested a factor to think about would be their budget. She explained for the 2013-2014 year they have allocated \$350,000 towards Large Grant projects and have two proposals in their final application process, which are the Performance Hall Overhaul and Viking Fixit Station. She also mentioned they are opening another Large Grant Application process February 19<sup>th</sup> to start allocating next year's funds. She said the Solar Thermal Project was supposed to be signed off on last week, have construction begin over Spring Break, and be done with the construction by May 13<sup>th</sup>. She guesses that with the postponed signing of this project they might not be able to start construction until the Summer. Wang wondered if they could afford the \$160,000 plus funding for the Performance Hall Overhaul and the Viking Fixit Stations. Majkut said they

need to look at four things when determining how to spend the budget which are the Solar Thermal Project overage, the Performance Hall Overhaul project, the Viking Fixit Station project, and the funding for new projects. He mentioned the Performance Hall Overhaul project is looking at other sources for funding and since it is a two phase project they can chose to fund one space over the other. He said they have enough money in the budget to fund the Solar Thermal Project overage, but it might have implications on the current two projects that have been approved and on future projects. He said with funding the Solar Thermal Project overage they will have about \$200,000 to fund the two other projects that have already been approved by the committee. Wang would like to support the projects that are already encumbered. She said it may be at the expense of new projects, but the advantage is that the new projects are not yet funded. She suggests telling the four teams currently drafting proposals that it will be more competitive this upcoming year because they can fund fewer projects if they end up covering the overage of the Solar Thermal Project. Sandy Fugami said if they stopped this project now, they would have \$180,000 leftover. She wonders if they didn't save enough money in the next 20 years to pay this project back, would they still want to go ahead with the implementation of this project. Clover said this project was funded to be more of a demonstration project on campus rather than being a project with the goal to pay it back. Stephen Harvey mentioned that if the REC Center makes revenue off this project, they may not need GEF money for ongoing maintenance costs. Clover said the Performance Hall Overhaul team is currently getting an estimate from Facilities Management if their project was only getting one performance space funded. Wang asked if they could spend next year's GEF money this year. Majkut said this might not be a problem, but an implication would be that next year's committee would have less funding to spend that year. He doesn't know if that would be problematic because they are coming up to the end of Green Energy Fee. He said the Solar Thermal Project is a significant project and even though they have already invested about \$40,000 into this already, it is going to be a highly visible to the campus community. Fugami says the systems allows them to negotiate the current bid, but the areas to negotiate are limited. She suggested that another option would be to lower the number of panels, but that would decrease the amount of energy. Majkut wonder how much money they would actually save if they cut back the number of panels because they would still have to pay the cost overage for the crane and structural steel. Fugami said it would cost a little less because they would be using less structural steel, but the mechanical portion would stay about the same. She said there wouldn't be a rebid fee if they want to decrease the number of panels because the consultant has to design the project within their budget or else he redesigns it for free. Majkut said they can either stop the project, fund the \$160,000, or cut back and rebid on this project. Majkut thinks renegotiating the price wouldn't be significant dollar wise. Fugami said with the rebid they could still get this project finished in the Summer. Clover said ideally they would want enough payback to fund the ongoing maintenance of the project rather than fully paying off the project. Majkut said it appears the timing issue seems to be that they would like to construct this project by Spring. He thinks there are two advantages of constructing this project in the Spring, which are students seeing this project go up and having the panels gain the sun from the Summer months. He said that even though the team prefers construction in the Spring, students will still see this project when they return to school in the Fall. Wang believes they should fund the overage for this project, scale back the Performance Hall Overhaul project to fund only phase one, and accept the Viking Fixit Station project. Ashley Selvey believes the teams they have already committed to should have priority because future teams are still going through the application process and the committee hasn't approved their final proposal. Clover suggested the Viking Fixit Station could be a small grant proposal. She said they have only funded two Small Grant projects, have one project as a discussion item next week, and have only used about \$6,000 of the \$40,000 allocated for this year's Small Grant projects.

Eckroth believes they should fund the projects that have already gone through the process of being approved. He thinks the Performance Hall Overhaul project is more of a renovation than a pilot project while the Solar Thermal Project would be a pilot project. He said the Solar Thermal Project is something students don't see very often, which would be a great learning opportunity.

***MOTION GEF-14-W-04 By: Wang***

Approval of the \$160,000 overage for the Solar Thermal Project

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

**V.    INFORMATION ITEMS**

**VI.   OTHER BUSINESS**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 9:29 P.M.**