

Western Washington University Associated Students
Green Energy Fee Committee Meeting
Monday, May 29, 2014 VU567

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), Megan Broadie (Student at Large), and Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs)

Absent: Grace Wang (faculty), Nina Olivier (AS ESP Associate Director), and Sadie Normoyle (GEF Education Coordinator)

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

MOTIONS

GEF-14-S-05 Approve the minutes of Thursday, April 19, 2014. *Passed.*

Robby Eckroth, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Additions/ Changes to the Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

MOTION ASB-14-S-05 By: Ellison

Approve minutes from April 19, 2014

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

IV. Review Final Large Project Proposals

• Viking Cycle Fixit Stations

Eckroth said they will be discussing these proposals at this week's meeting and then vote on them next week. Regan updated the committee on the Red Square Convenience Composting project and the Western Wind Energy project they approved to move on to the Conceptual Stage of the GEF Application process. She said these teams need more time to work on their final proposals. She said the team members attending Western next year will submit their final proposals in the fall. She said Western Wind Energy were proposing a rooftop turbine, but are unable to find a manufacturer that sells or allows the installation of rooftop turbines. She said they are looking if ground-mounded turbines will be another option. She said the Red Square Convenience Composting team decided to increase their educational component before submitting their application. She thinks they will submit their final application early in September.

She said the Viking Fixit Station are ready to submit their proposal. She said they originally wanted to implement five fixit stations, but they are now asking for three locations instead. She said the implementation of a fixit station by the Ree Center has been approved, but the other two locations suggested have not been established. She said they added an outreach position in their budget to work 10-20 hours a week to educate the campus on bike repair and usage. She said Sustainable Transportation agreed to fund up to \$200 a year in maintenance fees for this project. They also agreed to monitor them during their weekly bike rack rounds on campus to see if anything is broken. She said this team was unable to get approval from anyone regarding the clause that would want the stakeholders to pay for maintenance and removal of this project after the first year. Vidana said it looks like they have two options,

they could go back to Facilities Management and ask them again to take responsibility for project removal or have the GEF Committee pay for the removal of the project. He thinks this is going to be a reoccurring problem and the easiest way to get around this would be to set up a fund that will help out with project removals. Clover was offered the suggestions of having the Associated Students or Outdoor Center own these stations. Simpson wondered if the Alternative Transportation Fee Committee would have the funding or ability to take over this project after a year because it seems like it would help their program out quite a bit. Eckroth chairs this committee. He said it's a stretch to get funding if they aren't using the money for transit purposes. He thinks it makes the most sense to have the Outdoor Center take on this project. Eckroth wonders if they could increase the amount of funding given to this team to pay for maintenance. Vidana said in order to do this they would have to change some current GEF rules because right now they are pretty specific about not having reoccurring maintenance costs for projects after the first year. Rusk suggests having projects incorporate the maintenance and project removal costs in their budgets. Majkut and is concerned about having more and more of the Green Energy Fee going towards maintenance rather than new projects. Eckroth there should be a lot of discussion on this next year when the fee is up for renewal to decide whether or not they should incorporate maintenance costs of GEF projects. He thinks funding the maintenance costs for projects would be a case by case basis. Ellison would be hesitant to put the burden on students to pay for ongoing maintenance costs when they are trying to make the campus more sustainable. She said this is also a goal of the university and the university should be willing to take on things like this. She thinks doing this at a case by case basis could make sense, but thinks it may also involve larger university conversations. She doesn't think it is fair to call Western a sustainable campus, but then have students pay to cover maintenance costs. Vidana thinks this would an appropriate thing to bring up to the Sustainability Committee. Simpson wondered if they would be able to vote on and approve this if no one signs off on the removal of this project. Vidana thinks they need to hammer out the problems they are running into right now before they move ahead on this. Majkut thinks they should give Maxwell Evans a call to touch base with him on this. Eckroth is concerned about the Bicycle Repair and Maintenance Educator position. He said they had a similar position to this in the past and the position wasn't utilized. Clover said the team was hoping to hold workshops at the stations after they had been implemented. Majkut said they should make sure they aren't duplicating projects or positions. Clover used to hold these workshops for county staff, and they were overflowing with people. Ellison would be more comfortable with the implementation if this position if she could see an outline of their possible schedule. Clover added that this position would be responsible for having 5 educational events each quarter. Selvey said this position seems more flexible with the demands from students living on campus. Clover mentioned that this team has been having trouble securing a place on North Campus.

• Performance Hall Overhaul

Clover said this team is look at putting LED lighting in the Concert Hall and Main Stage of the Performing Arts Center (PAC). She said they had four funding options to choose from. She said the education component would consist of publicity of the projects in playbills and doing permanent signage in the lobby of the PAC. She added that this project was signed off by all of the stakeholders. Vidana hasn't signed off on this proposal yet. He had the opportunity to do this yesterday, but wanted to wait to do this after he spoke with the committee. He mentioned that the payback of this project is lengthy. He said for option D, the payback is about 24 years. He said if they include the labor costs it takes to finish this project the payback it would be about 40-50 years. He wouldn't have an issue with this if the project was more visible. Eckroth said the PAC is planning on being renovated in the next 10 years

and thinks this renovation would include lighting. Simpson said they wouldn't touch the lighting during renovations if this project had already been done. Rusk doesn't think they have considered the payback time enough when they have approved previous projects. He thinks all the projects they approved have lengthy payoffs, so he doesn't think payoff length should be their number one objective. He said the savings of LED lights are enormous when compared to the lights currently in the Concert Hall. He thinks in this case, the energy commitment is more important than the financial commitment. Simpson said LED lighting technology has come a long way in the last view year and the costs of them have been dropping. He thinks the project would most likely occur next summer and by that time the technology and lighting cost may drop even lower. He hopes the project estimates are more towards the high end. Rusk suggests funding the lowest level of this project and encourage the team to reapply in order to fund the next level. He thinks by this time the costs of the technology and LED lights would decrease. Simpson doesn't think there is a way to get this project implemented by this year, but if they approve this project to be implemented next year they have the ability to start scheduling around events happening in the PAC. Ellison thinks that a lot of the long term payback projects have been a lot more visible than this one. She is hesitant to approve this hoping it will get cheaper. She added that GEF funded a project similar to this one in the PAC. Simpson suggests having an interactive LED display rather than a plaque for the educational component. Majkut thinks this project is highly visible because there are large amounts of people that go in and out of this building. Selvey is wary of this given their experience with the Solar Thermal Project and its unexpected costs. Simpson thinks the structure of the panels is the main reason the price of the project increased exponentially. He doesn't think there is a large possibility of this happening with this project. Vidana said there has been a lot of discussion in this committee about pilot projects versus the expansion of projects. He mentioned that they did do this as a pilot project before. He said if the committee approves this, they are approving the expansion of a former pilot project. He said if the committee wants to stick to having true pilot projects they can focus more attention in that direction next year. Clover thinks they should have decided if it was a pilot project or not during the Conceptual Application stage. She said the committee made the decision that this wasn't a pilot project because it's on a larger scale and different type of technology. Selvey thinks if the committees funds a project and like it they should continue to support the project teams. Eckroth said they have seen this with the water bottle refill stations. He said this project was not only supported by the committee, but the students also put pressure on the university to implement them. Vidana thinks the weakest part of the program is what they do after the project has been implemented. He said they have been more focused on getting students to apply to go through this process. He and Regan Clover have been currently talking about strategic opportunities for next year.

VI. Adjourn

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 3:30 P.M.