

Western Washington University Associated Students Green Energy Fee Committee Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2015 VU 462B

Committee Members Present: Zach Dugovich, Chair (AS VP Student Life), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Nate White (GEF Grant Program Coordinator), Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs), Patrick Eckroth (Student at Large), Brian Rusk (Faculty Representative), Colin Ridgley (GEF Education Coordinator),

Advisor: Greg McBride, Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities

Secretary: Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees

Absent: Sadie Normoyle (AS ESP Associate Director), Jaleesa Smiley (AS VP for Academic Affairs), Neal Dickinson (Student at Large), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager),

MOTIONS

GEF-15-W-10 Approve the minutes for February 9, 2015

GEF-15-W-11 Approve the electric bike pilot to the final application stage

Zach Dugovich, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Dugovich adds talking about the small grants amount. Rusk asked if they're going to have a discussion about what the committee envisions for the Green Energy Fee initiative. Dugovich said a group of students is meeting Friday and then he'll keep the committee informed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION GEF-15-W-10 Rusk

Move to approve the minutes for February 9, 2015

Second: Dugovich Vote: 4-0-0

Action: Passed

V. Action Items

Electric Bike Pilot Preliminary Design Estimation Stage

Dugovich said this is moving it from the conceptual stage to the final stage. Before they talk he has a note from Neal Dickinson: "I voted no because the electric bicycle project is ahead of its time. As a student and a frequent bike rider I can tell you with certainty that the school and the community does not have the infrastructure to safely accommodate these bicycles. The bicycle paths that exist are often narrow, crowded, and wet. Safe bicycle navigation in Bellingham requires caution even at low speeds. Biking at speeds of more than 15 mph is not something I would recommend to any student traveling through downtown or on campus. There is also not a good bike path through campus to a lot of places. Constantly, I see people riding on bikes through Red Square and across the lawn at Old Main weaving in and out through students. There is no reason to add an electric bicycle to this mix. There is no delivery on campus that an electric vehicle or a regular bike couldn't already do. We wouldn't be adding to the efficiency or sustainability of the campus. The third reason I voted no is because I have no experience with any electric bikes. And neither do the people with the proposal. Operating a bike with a load is work to keep it balanced. The operator would have to be trained in safely driving essentially a moped-like vehicle across campus. If any sort of accident would occur it would look very bad for the university. For these reasons, I think that the risks outweigh the rewards for this project. I understand there are no other projects in the works right now, but I don't think we should pass something just because we have the money for it. This project is destined to have a long road ahead of it and I personally don't have any interest in continuing it." Colin Ridgley, GEF Education Coordinator, said the University of Nevada Reno

program was more about student use, it seems like the committee is more on board with staff using it instead of motor vehicles. He thinks that's not represented in the view Dickinson presented. He thinks this is lower impact than a diesel truck. Ed Simpson said Dickinson is right that the drive through campus, but it was never intended that bikes would be going through campus. If they were to stay on east college way, that would be good. He would like to see people on electric bikes there. He would like to see them have the opportunity to go further and flush it out to see if it becomes it a full-blown, acceptable proposal. Ridgley said it's also worth remembering that this is a pilot program. This project would help answer those questions. Brian Rusk asked if there was any feedback to this group about just trying to gear it toward the faculty use. Ridgley said from what he remembers many people brought up that that was what they were more comfortable with. Part of the final application is that they work closely with Nate White, GEF Grant Program Coordinator, and he could guide them toward that. White said he thinks their proposal to do the cargo bikes is stronger than the individual use. He would advise them to go that route. He thinks the problem is that they have multiple options and they want the committee to decide what they should do. Dugovich said this isn't the job of the committee to decide. It's not in our charge and charter to decide exactly what they want them to do. It's up to committee to decide how to allocate funds. Rusk said they can also guide their proposal. Simpson said maybe the next one would be a survey of who on campus would utilize this Rusk said that's where he's at. He wants to know who on campus would use them and what exactly they would be using them for, how much it would save, how many would they use. Dugovich said that's the beauty of the final application is that it requires them to come up with those solid numbers. This approval isn't the funding, it's allowing them to go further. Simpson said if there was at the physical plant and saw his staff using it, it would give him incentive to buy two or three. White said if another university department outside of the project decided to use these bikes based on the success of the pilot program, then that would constitute a success of the GEF. Ridgley said Dickinson brought up good questions, but that's what the next application is for. Rusk said yes, he'd like to see more detail, which is what the application is for. But they really need to come through. Patrick Eckroth said especially with sticking to the staff side of this, it would be good to see more details.

MOTION GEF-15-W-11 by Dugovich

Approve the electric bike pilot to the final application stage

Second: Eckroth

Vote: 4-0-0

Action:

VI. Discussion

A. Committee Involvement in approving project proposals from the conceptual stage to final application

Dugovich said they need to decide if they want the committee to approve proposals from the conceptual stage to the final application or if they want the office of sustainability to do that. There's two sides to this. They're moving away from the committee having the power to move these projects along, but at the same time it will move projects along faster and save time. Simpson said he doesn't have a problem with that. White can always bring things forward for informational purposes. He can't remember if there were meetings every week in the past or if it was more bi-weekly. That might be part of the problem getting everyone here. White said the charge and charter said the committee said they only have to meet twice a quarter, they're doing more than in the past. He's not trying to cut out the committee. Teams have just been frustrated with how it's been because months have gone by with any action on the proposal. They're not being paid or getting credit for this, this is just a please our customers, the students, by giving them access to that money a little quicker. The committee will still have the final approval. He thinks they would crank out more projects if Seth Vidana, Sustainability Manager, and he had the ability to approve the conceptual proposals. Simpson said he wonders if there is some way of recognizing groups that have great ideas, but they don't get approved. It's still very valuable what they do. White asked what he was thinking. Simpson said just some sort of acknowledgement. Ridgley said maybe language that allows them to put it on their resume. That's probably the way it's more useful. Rusk said runner up status.

Dugovich said they could send a letter on behalf of the committee. Dugovich said maybe this is something to hammer out next year, to make it so the committee is still involved. Eckroth said some sort of middle ground. Rusk said so maybe White brings the conceptual idea to the committee, but it's not dependent on the committee to advance. White said something else is being strict on quorum. Enforcing commitment to the committee would also be a way to make this happen. Ridgely asked if there's precedent if you miss so many meetings to be removed from the committee. Eckroth said there's not really a policy. It more just, if you don't show up you can be replaced. Dugovich said it's at the discretion of the chair. He's reached out to the woman in charge of putting staff members on Associated Students committees and she emailed him back asking for further clarification, which he gave and he hasn't heard back from her. This quarter had particularly been hard for people. White said the process will work if people are here to vote on it and they're diligent about timelines. Rusk said four is a quorum and six voting members. Dugovich said there are seven voting members. If they added another number, quorum would still be the same. This is more about changing the charge and charter than changing the actual rules. He could submit changing the charge and charter to include another student- at-large and quorum would remain the same. Lily Jaquith, AS Board Assistant for Representation Committees, said no it would go up to five because it's half plus one. White said they have been talking about having Sadie Normoyle, AS ESP Director, as a voting member. Dugovich said that's actually what he will do is, include Normoyle as voting member. Rusk said he's approached another faculty member, who said they wanted a few more days to think on it. He has two backups in mind, so they might have a better chance if they pick someone out.

B. Small Grant Amounts

Dugovich said they need to solidify what they want to do for small grant amounts, \$2000 or \$5000. White said the idea would allow for simpler ideas to have less overview. Rusk asked if they favor it. White said yes. Ridgely said putting that other option out there opens them to a broader range of options. White said they did approve campus to compost project that was just under \$5,000. Dugovich said if there's no objections than the office has the ability to put through small grant options up to \$5,000.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:32 P.M.