

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Sustainable Action Fund
Tuesday September 29, 2015 VU 567**

**Present: Emma Palumbo (ASVP for Student Life), Hannah Brock, Nate White, Ed Simpson,
Anna Kemper, Seth Vidaña, and Brian Rusk**

Advisor: Greg McBride, Eric Alexander

Secretary: Bryce Hammer

Guest: Beth Hartsoch

MOTIONS

MOTION SAF-15-F-1 Approve E-Bike Proposal. **Passed.**

MOTION SAF-15-F-2 Approve the Sustainability Awards. **Passed.**

Emma Palumbo, Chair of Sustainable Action Fund, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. E-Bike Presentation Follow Up

Beth started with the insurance for the bikes. She said that originally the concern was that a student or faculty member might be deterred from renting a bike if they were going to be held responsible for the cost of possible damages. Beth looked into how much insurance would cost and there are a couple of options. There is the Loss and Damage insurance that would be \$1123 (which includes tax and fees) a year for the program and that includes one bike or all of the bikes. There is also a Liability insurance which would be \$7657 a year (includes taxes and fees) if they wanted to buy it for the program (which would only be for commercial applications, non-commercial applications would be about \$100 a year, in order for the insurance to non-commercial the students would have to buy the bike every time they took it out and then Western would have to buy it back). Employees of the state of Washington are already covered by the state for this type of insurance. The down side to the Loss and Damaged insurance is it creates a perverse incentive for the renters, meaning they could just take the bike and claim it was lost and not have to pay for it. The problem with the Liability insurance is that the non-commercial application is difficult and it wouldn't work unless the students owned the bike. The other problem is that there's a \$1000 deductible. Another possibility is that the E-Bike program just sets aside money every year to cover possible loss and damage claims, the problem

with this is that it also creates a perverse incentive for renters. Eric said the problem seems to come in when the bikes are being rented for private use, not when they're fleet vehicles. Beth said that's true only if the person renting would be deterred by assuming the financial risk. Eric asked if it would be possible to create a rental program modeled after rental car companies that allow their customers to buy temporary renter's insurance from the company itself, and the renters can make that decision based on what insurance they already have (like Home Owner's insurance, or Renter's insurance). Eric said that the Outdoor Center rents bikes, kayaks, tents, etc. on a regular basis and maybe we should look into their system. Emma said that she would feel a lot more comfortable funding this with insurance because of student accessibility. Beth said that we should look for lower insurance quotes or lower deductibles. Eric said the ultimate goal of the program is to encourage people to use electric bicycles and there might be some type of insurance that lets people do that. He suggested varied rental rates for students and staff/faculty. Greg said the challenge is giving state property to someone to own and letting them use the bike for something that isn't state business. He said that renter's insurance would be a good way to bridge that gap. Beth said that would be a good idea but Paul Mueller (who she has been working with on this project) has said that if the program is going to charge people to rent bikes then it would have to be enough to cover the cost of the entire program. The problem with that is coming up with a budget for the cost of the program is nearly impossible to do right now because of the lack of information. Nate suggested that the program could buy the blanket coverage and then set aside enough for the deductible from the program funds. Seth asked if this discussion was leading to a vote and the group responded that yes it was but there are still some concerns. Seth said that the group can vote on the program but he won't allow any spending to happen until there is clearance and safe guards in place. The group agreed this was a good idea. Beth said that she would look into how the Outdoor Center handles their bike rentals. Greg said that they should look into how liability would work if the bikes were being used for state business. Brian said it seems easier to set up a user agreement and we could mimic it after the Outdoor Center's agreement. Hannah said that it would be a huge risk to assume that no one would steal the bikes because bikes are so difficult to track. Eric asked if it was possible to track bikes and how expensive that would be. Hannah said that would be a good thing to look into and there should be an incentive to keep the bikes looking nice and functioning well. Beth said that the Outdoor Center transfers all financial responsibility to the user and it hasn't been a deterrent to renters. Also, in the E-Bike user agreement it will state that overnight storage needs to be in a locked room. Greg said that the program needs something around a user agreement. Hannah suggests two forms, one for renting for personal use and another for renting for work use. That way we either assume liability for employees or have no liability for non-work uses. She also suggested driver certification, regular check-ins, or some sort of documentation. Greg suggested that the group fund the on-campus uses now and fund the off-campus uses later. The project team and the project owner would finalize after operational pieces are clarified. Hannah said that the vote could go through with conditions and limits that would approve a certain budget but not let

them exceed that for this pilot program. Emma suggested that the committee could fund the full amount for the program and then later on they could also fund the insurance. Brain said that a rental agreement might make the second part unnecessary so the committee could fund them and stipulate that there must be some sort of user agreement.

MOTIONS AF-15-F-1 by Palumbo

Approval of the E-Bike proposal (\$49,391) with the stipulation that a user agreement form is investigated and finalized for individual use.

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

B. Sustainability Awards

Seth said that he has been looking at the structure of the small grant program for the awards for sustainability and that the committee could make access to the money easier for people to get. The idea is to take \$4000 from the grant program and give them to the winners of the sustainability awards so they can take that money and improve our community on a more concentrated level. Emma said it's a good idea and we should lay out some guidelines for how they can spend the money. The group agreed that guidelines would be necessary. Nate asked how the funds would be transferred and Seth said it would depend on whether or not the winner was a student group or a department. Greg said that the money being used would have to fulfill state guidelines and the clubs using the money would have to use it in appropriate ways. Greg asked if this was coming out of small grants or operational reserves. Seth said it would be the small grants.

MOTIONS AF-15-F-2 by Brock

Approval of \$4000 to be transferred from the small grant program to the Western Sustainability Awards

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:56pm.