



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION FUND COMMITTEE

Wednesday November 30th, 2016, 10:00 a.m. VU714

Members: *Present: Wayne Rocque (ASVP for Student Life), Mary Moeller (ASVP for Business and Operations), Greg McBride (Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities), Anna Kemper (Environmental & Sustainability Programs Director), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager for Western), Johnathan Riopelle (Sustainable Action Fund Grant Coordinator), Jasmine Goodnow (Faculty Representative), Hannah van Amen, and Keiko Betcher (AS Sustainable Action Fund Education Coordinator).*
Absent: Kristen Tarr (Student at Large) and Izzy Juell (Student at Large).

Advisor: Greg McBride
Secretary: Cora Cole
Guests: Trisha Patterson (Students for Renewable Energy)

MOTIONS

SAF-16-F-1 Moving REC investments from New Era Energy to PSC's Green Direct Program. *Passed.*

SAf-16-F-2 Move the Funds Proposal to an Action Item. *Passed*

Wayne Rocque called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM on Wednesday, November 23rd.

I. Introductions

- a. There were new folks so we introduced ourselves with names, pronouns, and Positions.

Jasmine Goodnow entered at 10:06

II. Discussion Items

- a. **Rubric:** Wayne started conversation about the rubric and asked if anyone had questions. Mary mentioned that one of the rubrics that we had looked at calculated monetary impact and she really liked how quantifiable it was. Hannah asked what the current SAF role is in regards to the rubric and Wayne said that we have a draft and we would like to get that updated and useable this year. Anna asked if it would make sense to create another subcommittee to continue the work of last year's. The committee asked if the rubric for the different tiered projects would be different or if this rubric would be usable for all of the tiers, Wayne and Greg said they thought that it would be usable for all of the potential projects. The purpose of it would be to prioritize some grants over others using a point range and also to show the bare minimum for projects. Greg explained that the point range had not yet been decided. The levels had been a pretty quick fix for the issue to provide a concrete example and had been based off of the sample rubrics, particularly

the SUNY Orange one. Mary suggested highlighting frontline communities in the social sustainability section of the rubric. Wayne agreed and added that we should also emphasize benefits to the Bellingham/Whatcom area because of the transitional nature of the university we tend to ignore those impacts. Mary returned to the Berkley Rubric with the material impacts on carbon, electricity, and gas. Seth mentioned a concern that many times the fund is used for not directly involved with material impacts so that wouldn't work for every project. Mary agreed and Greg said that Berkley's whole site is a part of the rubric, making it easy for students to understand the process. Jasmine mentioned that the rubric is pretty complex and very wordy, so that might discourage students from getting involved with the fund because it looks like you have to do all of those things. She suggested having value statements so that students know how much of it has to be met. Greg responded that the point of the rubric had been to include other kinds of sustainability instead of just energy projects, he and Seth agreed that having a preface for the rubric would be ideal so that you can give a minimum for the projects and also have the criteria. Greg asked if there was an item we want to have moving forward, Wayne said he would like to see a subcommittee putting together a second draft of the rubric. Keiko said that she wants more specificity in terms of the duration of impact both to communities and campus, and Johnathan said that he would like to be a part of that subcommittee when it is formed.

III. Action Item

- a. The Green Power Opportunity.** Wayne asked if anyone had any comments, concerns, or questions coming into the vote about the Wind Farm. Anna said that she had met with University VPs yesterday and they had been very excited about the opportunity and wanted to see what the committee said. The Secretary notified the committee that Jacob Keith had been unable to come today but had voiced his support for the program. Seth clarified the language of the proposal, the purpose would be to move the purchase of RECs from our current provider to the Green Power Opportunity, should PSE have space for us within that program. Additionally, we would like to recommend to PSC that they hire folks that are effected by the loss of fossil fuel industry. Greg asked for the timeline on the movement, Seth clarified that the payments will start in 2018-19 but we don't know quite when PSE will want them exactly. The new proposed wording read as: commit to move the purchase of RECs from our current project (Next Era Energy) to the Green Power Opportunity, should the -Power have space for us within that program RECs at the beginning of the Green Power Program. Additionally, Greg clarified that the committee is the voice of students officially advising Johnathan on what should happen with the fund. Wayne asked for Seth to clarify the point about "if they have enough space," Seth explained that there are a limited number of spots in the Green Direct Program.

MOTION SAF-16-F-1 by Rocque

Motion to commit purchasing and moving from our current REC provider, Next Era Energy, to PSC's Green Direct Program.

Second: Kemper

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 Action: Passes

IV. Information Items

- a. **E-Bike grant award:** Johnathan explained that last year the committee approved the Viking E-Bike Program. They have some reserves in their budget and have asked to spend those to send Dedeepya Gudipati and Jillian Trinkaus to the WAHESC meeting in Spokane and present about the program. Cost is approximately \$900 for attendance, board and travel, they need our approval to use those funds. This will come from the \$4,000 within the unexpected expenses portion of their reserves. Seth explained that the program is one of the first in the state and our students would be presenting on the program and could spark similar programs around the state.

Keiko Becher left at 10:51 AM

Johnathan clarified that the grant is underspent because the program budgeted quite a bit for maintenance and the unexpected expenses are a huge part of the underspending. Keith added that they didn't know what the costs would be like because the program was so unprecedented it ended up being pretty experimental and in his opinion it has been very successful, if under budget. Johnathan asked that we move it to an action item, Wayne said that he had some reservations but Anna and other committee members agreed they were comfortable moving it to an action item.

MOTION SAF-16-F-2 by Rocque

Motion to move the grant award proposal to an action item.

Second: Kemper

Vote: 4 - 0 - 0 Action: Passes

V. Action Item:

- a. Seth explained to the committee that they could just express their consent to the use of funds without having a vote. The committee voiced approval.

Information Items continued

- b. **Fund OS and ESP member attendance of WAHSC in Spokane:** Both the ESC and OS are paying for 4 people to attend the WAHESC conference, they are asking for an additional three slots from this committee. This is an expansion of the number of people they can take from Western to the conference, the funding would be up to \$4,400. They would like to get started on travel authorizations as soon as possible so a vote today would be ideal. The conference is a good opportunity for students to network and learn things to share on campus and the keynote speaker is Beth Robbinette who is a Western alum. Mary mentioned that there are specific pathways for AS employee development and asked if people had used that already. Anna said that they had applied to the fund but they had gotten declined because they had gone to other trips, additionally the SAF is bigger than that fund. Greg said that we don't have quorum because Anna can't vote on the issue having to do with her own staff, so we could use do it as a consent item but would not be able to do a traditional vote. Mary mentioned that having protected spots for the people from Anna's office this might be a misuse of funds and she should perhaps go through personnel and Mary will talk to an advisor about the issue. Seth agreed that Mary's comments also applied to his group. Greg said that the committee approved the action

with AS employees and faculty in it last year, he added that we might want to look at the fee language first. Seth said that staff is better at sending out the information to the campus at large. Mary said that she believes we that we already have a lot of opportunities for AS employees to attend conferences and doesn't want to use the student fee money to further aid them if the opportunity isn't going to be available for students at large as well.

Wayne tabled the item until our next meeting in January.

Wayne Rocque adjourned the meeting at 11:09 PM.