



# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION FUND COMMITTEE

Friday, February 24th, 2017, 8:00AM. VU460

**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), and Keiko Betcher (AS Sustainable Action Fund Education Coordinator).*  
*Absent: Jacob Keith (Student at Large) and Izzy Juell (Student at Large)*

**Advisor:** Greg McBride  
**Secretary:** Cora Cole  
**Guests:**

*Wayne Rocque called the meeting to order at 8:08 am.  
The committee did not make quorum so they held an informal discussion.*

## I. Introductions

## II. Discussion Items

**a. Amendments to charge and charter:** Wayne brought up that we could have more members of the committee, a student at large from each college... He asked for thoughts and feedback on the issue, Mary asked if we had the technology to get a student from each college and if we could just lower the threshold for quorum. Additionally, when the committee has more members, finding times where they can all meet gets hard enough that it might not actually change how often we make quorum. Greg mentioned that the amount for quorum affects the amount of votes needed for approval and changing that changes the way that voices of different bodies on campus are heard. Anna said that we should find out why people don't show up. ESC representatives have not been coming/applying to come to any meetings. Students at large are wildly important but it's easy to not show up and they might not have context for why it happens. Mary said that part of the problem with ESC representatives might be that it is a little bit tokenizing to include an ESC representative and then not really have a clear role outlined, they also have a lot of demands on their time. Wayne thanked people for their thoughts and Johnathan added that the coordinator isn't a member of the committee but he wants to come to meetings, Wayne and Mary said that was okay.

**b. Policy for bringing Projects to committee:** Wayne said the young man who had come last meeting to talk about project refill, previously had been deeply

uncooperative with the advisors. So he asked what the policy would be for people who want to come in to the committee and don't have not compliant with the process for projects. What does it take for people to come to the committee, can they go over the offices of advisors, or do they have to get advisors clearance first? Mary said she didn't feel unsafe and was concerned about using respect as a metric for resource access. Keiko said that not cooperating with the process is different than respecting elders and Johnathan added that the pathway for projects that is laid out is something that we need in order to run smoothly. He is interested in providing access to resources, not as a gatekeeper but as a necessary pathway. The question was then raised: should people go out on their own without the S AF office and at that point, what role should the SAF provide. Seth said that the committee doesn't want to operate as the initial review of projects. Students need to work with the office before they can take it to committee and if they don't then the committee creates dissonance and the different offices can individually shoot down a proposal and avoiding that happens through the "gate keeping" of the SAF office. Greg added that the role of the committee is the perspective of decision-making, we are here to see if it is a good thing to do, not if it is effective or practical, those parts of a proposal are done by the office. Wayne asked Keiko and Seth if this particular case had been because of a problem with the pathway. Keiko said that A had a full team last year and this year he didn't have a full team, so that could have been a contributing factor. Johnathan said that A's complaints had been that he didn't want to modify the proposal to request less funds. \$280,000 for 4 outdoor water bottle refill stations. Johnathan said that this was the first time that this issue came up, if the committee changes the language they will get more people coming to the committee, but not by much. Wayne voiced the concern that by focusing on uncooperative students we might take time away from other students who are willing to meet needs of the campus. Mary addressed this concern and said that the students that are bringing projects here know what they are doing, but the University is more likely to cooperate with the student projects that have been stamped with the office and committee approval. Seth said that the students he works with don't have completed ideas and need the SAF office to guide them in developing a goals for the project and/or a plan for achieving them. Mary voiced a concern that a lot of students don't understand the process because of a lack of transparency within the university. Anna said that she had learned how to navigate beurocracy by doing projects here and Keiko and Greg agreed that this is a helpful life skill that we are teaching. Keiko added that for students meeting with staff shortens the process for them, making it easier. Seth said that following the process is necessary, he worked really hard to help A P and that eliminating the process hurts students more then it helps. Wayne thanked folks and said that he will discuss this again next meeting.

- c. **Rubric:** folks read the rubric updates. Mary suggested that we evaluate old projects and then create a threshold for them. Greg said that we should alter environmental impact breaking it up into, the offset emissions or reduction of resource use. Social reach should either discuss large/small or narrow/ diverse but don't mix them.
- d. **Summer Meetings of SAF:** In the past, summer session has had a problem because they couldn't meet with the committee to approve things. Would we have an executive committee to talk about the issues and vote on them during the summer. Wayne isn't sure if that is feasible but he will keep the staff updated.

*Wayne Rocque adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.*