



Western Washington University Associated Students
Sustainable Action Fund Committee

Wednesday, January 31st, 2018 5:00 PM VU567

Members:

Present: Alex LaVallee (ASVPfor Business and Operations), Johnathan Riopelle (AS Sustainable Action Fund Grant Program Coordinator), Kate Rayner Fried (AS Sustainable Action Fund Education Coordinator), Katie Winkelman (AS ESP Director), Scott Dorough (Campus Energy Manager), Spiro Pappas (Sustainable Action Fund Projects Coordinator), Crow Chloupek (Student at Large), and Pauline Mogilevsky (Student at Large).

Absent: Annie Gordon (ASVPfor Student Life), Jasmine Goodnow (Faculty Representative), Jordan Lucia (Student at Large)

Advisor: Greg McBride

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guests: Kamea Black, Jack Herring, Maddie Price, and John Tuxill

Motions:

SAF-18-W-8 Approval of the minutes for the January 24th, 2018 meeting. *Passed.*

SAF-18-W-9 Approval of the Right to Risk final application. *Passed.*

Alex LaVallee called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

I. Introductions

LaVallee had the committee introduce themselves name, position and pronouns.

II. Approval of the Minutes

a. January 24th

MOTION: SAF-18-W-8 by Chloupek

Approval of the minutes for the January 24th, 2018 meeting.

Second: LaVallee Vote: 5-0-0 Action: *Passed*

III. Action Items

a. Right to Risk final application

LaVallee asked about the validity of the Subjective Happiness Scale as a quantitative measure. Winkelman mentioned the committee could request the group use a different scale to measure happiness. LaVallee said his issue was that it was not a quantitative measure. Pappas said the marginalized populations sometimes found themselves justifying why they deserved to be there, so the group organizing the project wanted to see how the microadventure impacts that feeling. He noted that this was the measure they had come up with to evaluate this impact.

MOTION: SAF-18-W-8 by Chloupek

Approval of the Right to Risk final application.

IV. Information Item**a. Majora Carter conceptual application**

Winkelman said the Environmental and Sustainable Programs office normally brought in a speaker for Earth Day and that year the office wanted Majora Carter. Carter had a very popular Ted talk “Greening the Ghetto”, with 2 million views on the Ted talk platform alone. She was a winning Peabody broadcaster, she implemented the Huntside riverside park in the South Bronx, was the founder of social enterprise and economic development in low-income status communities, and projects focused in green-infastructure and providing folks with jobs. She focuses on the intersection of sustainability with race as well as economic status. Winkelman showed the committee a few minutes of Carter’s “Greening the Ghetto” Ted talk. Winkelman said Earth Day has a community connections lens that year and Carter’s talk was centered on being in touch with one’s community and sustainable connections with community. The ESP office was working with Community 2 Community, the food co-op, clubs, and would be engaging with students in sustainable conversations. While in Bellingham Majora Carter would be the keynote speaker 5:00 PM to 6/6:30 PM on April 25th. The hope was that Carter would engage with student in class raps. Potentially network with club leaders, sustainability and social justice clubs. Also, explore the Bellingham community to add to her experience and provide a sense of place. Winkelman discussed how bringing Majora Carter would connect with the values of the Sustainable Action Fund, the Environmental & Sustainability Programs office and the Sustainable Action Plan because the talk could teach students how to reduce their environmental impact, and increase student involvement in a community manner. The ESP was asking for the grant because they want it to be free for students to learn about this and for it to be accessible to all students. Winkelman said there had been speakers in the past at Western that had sold out the Performing Arts Center and they expect the same to occur with Majora Carter. The speaker fee was \$20,000, airfare \$1000, hotel \$350, food and living \$500, \$2000 for additional student involvement, totally to be about \$24,150. They planned to have her there for three days. Riopelle asked how the class raps would work. Winkelman said it depended on how much time professors would be willing to give over to her. They were expecting 30 minute segments and she would have 4 hours on Earth Day to participate in classrooms. LaVallee said the ESP should make sure the \$2,000 covered the class raps as well. Riopelle asked Winkelman to include scheduled activities in the final application. Dorough asked if they were requesting the full budget from the SAF. Riopelle suggested that they look at their other funding options because in the past the SAF only paid partial amounts for speakers.

b. Outback Farm final application

Riopelle explained that the conceptual application had been approved the previous spring quarter, so that was why the committee had not seen it within the school year. He also introduced Kamea Black, who was one of the students that had put the conceptual application together the previous year. Maddie Price stated the project would implement a three year pilot, non-student position as a program specialist for the Outback Experiential Learning Program. She explained the project had been looked into by Jack Herring and was found the Sustainable Action Fund was the best way to get funding for the position. The previous fall two students, Paul Kearsley and Kamea Black, started the conceptual application and passed it on to Maddie Price during

spring. Price stated that based on the recommendations set forth in previous assessments of the Outback Experiential Learning Program, as well as the observed success of other university farms, they were proposing the creation of a 3-year pilot of a half-time, non-student Program Specialist position for the Outback. The specialist would hold responsibilities on site and off, including repairing irrigation systems, diagnosing plant pathologies, collaborating with faculty and community partners, as well as, managing 8-12 students. The three year study would serve as proof of concept for long-term existence of the position. She said the plan was originally a five year pilot, but had limited it to three years to save student funds. Price explained long-term continuity was a crucial component to any campus farm and leads to increase crop productivity and farmers become more knowledgeable about their farm ecology. The students were increasingly interested in hands-on experiential education as it related to human-scale sustainable systems. The non-student position would improve the performance of the existing campus sustainability resource, and provide hands on education to the students that the Associated Students could not provide at the time due to high turnover. The new position would allow the Outback to create long term connections with faculty, take some of the responsibility off the hands of the Outback Coordinator. The Outback Farm was a unique and underutilized part of Western's campus, only about 3,000 students utilized it each year and the group hoped this position would help them increase student engagement. Some of the downfalls of the Outback shown by the SCOT analysis were the underutilization by the students, unrealistic expectations were places on student coordinators, and the Outback relied heavily on funding from the AS and Fairhaven. The position would aid with transition of student coordinators and explore the option of creating a revenue stream for the outback. She said the estimated budget they were asking for was \$132,200 total, or \$44,066 per year for three years. The estimate included salary and benefits, operating expenses, truck access and funding for the End of Project Celebration. Price provided a case study done by the University of Washington (UW), when they added a non-student supervisor to their campus farm. The UW saw a 50% increase in their sales to the dining halls, which added around \$11,000 to their operating budget. The increase has continued and the UW farm in 2016 reported almost \$50,000 in sales. The study also saw an increase in student engagement. The group would measure success by increasing student outreach to classrooms, revenue generated from CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) boxes, implementation and use of food bank on the campus and increase student use of farm. They hope to increase student participation by about 400 students each year. If approved they would work with HR to find a candidate, once hired they would plan a spring celebration to let the community know of this change. Herring said Fairhaven and Huxley Colleges had proposed a new sustainable agricultural degree six years prior and it was added to the strategic plan, and part of the plan included hiring a non-student position for the Outback. They ran the budget through the university and it was not funded through the process and was also too small to go through the State Appropriation Fund, so students thought of the idea to ask the Sustainable Action Fund for a grant. Tuxill said he was the Outback Faculty Advisor when the first paid student coordinator got a position in the Outback. Each student brought new ideas to the Outback and had advocated for expanding to more student positions. All coordinators had said the job was too big for one person in achieving their goals. This non-student position would help with seeing more growth in the farm. Dorough asked if there would be another funding source after three years. Herring said

their intent was to prove, through the pilot, that the position was valuable to receive the necessary funding through Fairhaven and the university. They thought the position would be helpful because the group wanted to create a living learning community, which was something the university had not done yet to improve the student experience. The university wanted to increase graduation by 10% and a living learning community would help achieve that goal. Black said finding long term funding was the reason for the request being a three year pilot. At the end of the first and second years the position would write an annual report. Then after year two the documents could be used as evidence of the value of the position to find sustainable funding. Tuxill said the talks of sustainable funding would begin right away. Riopelle asked if the CSAs would be targeted to students or community. Price answered the target market would be students, staff and faculty. Riopelle asked how the CSAs would intersect with the food bank donations. Price said ideally they would do both. The CSA would put funds into the farm to see continual growth. She said at the time all the produce went to the food bank and with the non-student position they could increase produce growth. Riopelle asked how the University of Washington increased their revenue at such a high rate. Price said the UW farm revenue was from CSA sales and selling produce to the on campus dining halls, which were independently run. Chloupek asked about relative size of the Western farm in comparison to the UW farm. Price said the UW farm was about one acre and the Outback was 5 acres. Dorough asked what the increase in revenue would go to support. Price said it would go back into the farm, maintenance and operations. McBride said they imagined the grant would live in the Fairhaven College to manage, with support from the AS. Tuxill thought the first few years of revenue would probably go into the Outback infrastructure needs. Black said the position was only providing the option for revenue to be created because student coordinator positions did not have time to focus on creating revenue. Riopelle asked if the responsibilities would best be served by a half-time position. Price said it was important that the Outback stay student run and that this position not take over. Black noted the case study, done by the UW, also started at half-time. Tuxill mentioned that offering the position at half-time would allow that individual to still teach if they wanted to.

Alex LaVallee adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM.