



Western Washington University Associated Students
Sustainable Action Fund Committee

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018

5:00 PM

VU567

Members:

Present: Annie Gordon (ASVP for Student Life), Jasmine Goodnow (Faculty Representative), Alex LaVallee (ASVP for Business and Operations), Kate Rayner Fried (AS Sustainable Action Fund Education Coordinator), Scott Dorough (Campus Energy Manager), Crow Chloupek (Student at Large), and Pauline Mogilevsky (Student at Large).

Absent: Jordan Lucia (Student at Large), Johnathan Riopelle (AS Sustainable Action Fund Grant Program Coordinator), Katie Winkelman (AS ESP Director), Spiro Pappas (Sustainable Action Fund Projects Coordinator)

Advisor: Greg McBride

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guests: Hannah Bridgham

Motions:

SAF-18-W-10 Approval of the minutes for the January 31st, 2018 meeting. *Passed.*

SAF-18-W-11 Approval of tabling the Majora Carter conceptual application. *Not Passed.*

SAF-18-W-12 Approval of tabling the Majora Carter conceptual application. *Passed.*

SAF-18-W-13 Approval of tabling the Outback Farm final application. *Passed.*

Annie Gordon called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of the Minutes

a. January 31st

MOTION: SAF-18-W-10 by Chloupek

Approval of the minutes for the January 31st, 2018 meeting.

Second: Mogilevsky Vote: 5-0-1 Action: *Passed*

III. Action Items

a. Majora Carter conceptual application

Goodnow asked how the presentation would be different than the Ted Talks. Bridgham said Majora Carter had a specialized presentation that she only gives at universities called Hometown Security. Dorough asked how the \$25,000 grant was a responsible use of student funds for such a short period of time. Bridgham said that the grant would cover more than just the presentation at the Earth Day event, which they hope to double attendance at. The contract with Majora Carter would

include her interacting with students in classes, clubs and within the community over her four day stay in Bellingham. Gordon asked if the team had looked into partnering with another fund. Bridgham said she had reached out to the Urban Planning Club to see if they would sponsor the event at Activities Council. She said through other budgets they could probably pull together about \$3,000 to the event. She stated she would continue to reach out for more club sponsorship if the conceptual application was approved. Goodnow asked when the event would be. Bridgham said Earth Day was April 22nd and the Earth Day event on campus would be the 25th. LaVallee asked what the venue would be. Bridgham said Katie Winkelman was working on room reservations, but believed it was the Old Main (OM) theatre. She said they are anticipating a larger turnout than the 200 capacity of OM theatre, so she would be looking into reserving the Performing Arts Center. Gordon asked if they could do some form of a live stream of the presentation to reach a wider audience. Bridgham said she would look at the contract because it would be great for accessibility reasons. McBride shared the contract stated only for archival and internal use only, but they could do a simul-cast, similar to what the university did for graduation. LaVallee asked if the team had looked into the Large Event Opportunity Fund that helps Associated Students offices. Bridgham said she would look into that fund. Goodnow asked who the \$2,000 dinner was for. Bridgham said it was for student clubs and other students involved on campus to have dinner with Majora Carter. Goodnow asked how they would advertise the dinner. Bridgham felt they would advertise on Facebook and then create a form on Org Sync. McBride asked if they had thought about charging tickets, for non-students, to offset costs. Bridgham said they had not yet looked into charging tickets. McBride asked if this would be a grant or an underwrite, where the grant would promise to cover an expense to a certain amount. Bridgham said she was working to find other funding sources and offsetting costs. Gordon suggested that if the committee had more questions they should probably table it for the following week and move on to the fee language discussion. Dorrough said he would like to give the group another week to see some more concrete information about the alternative resources. He stated he was worried about the uncertainty of where the rest of the funds were coming from. Goodnow said she wanted more tangible information on what the dinner and workshops might look like. She felt the concept was not detailed enough for a \$25,000 grant. Chloupek reminded the committee that it was a conceptual application so they could give the group this feedback for their final application. Gordon said they would give the group the feedback and the item could be brought back the following week.

MOTION: SAF-18-W-11 by Gordon

Approval of tabling the Majora Carter conceptual application.

Second: Goodnow Vote: 3-2-0 Action: ***Not Passed***

Gordon expressed that the other items on the agenda were more pressing and felt they should table the item and move on. LaVallee felt the conceptual application had enough detail and that more detail would come with the final application. Gordon stated that at the time if a vote was put forward it might not pass, so they wanted to give the group more time to gather more information to better their proposal. Rayner Fried felt the conceptual application was well thought out and

the details of the contract would not be in the application for a while. Dorrough felt the fiscal part of the application was lacking and wanted to give the group more time.

MOTION: SAF-18-W-12 by Gordon

Approval of tabling the Majora Carter conceptual application
Second: Chloupek Vote: 5-0-0 Action: ***Not Passed***

b. Outback Farm final application

MOTION: SAF-18-W-13 by Chloupek

Approval of tabling the Outback Farm final application.
Second: Gordon Vote: 4-1-0 Action: ***Passed***

IV. Other Business

a. Fee language

Gordon said the Sustainable Action Fund fee gets renewed every three years. She shared a document of how the fee was proposed to the students three years prior. She said the fee at the time was \$.70 per credit, not to exceed \$7.00. She asked the committee whether they would like to lower the fee, keep the fee the same or increase the fee. She expressed that the committee had been building up a reserve over the years. However, they were spending more money that year and would not be able to continue to spend at that rate if the fee was not increased. Gordon felt it could go either way, increase or decrease, but she was more inclined to raise the fee due to the success the committee had seen that year. She felt the SAF would only continue gain more traction. McBride said in proposing new fee language could state that the committee could raise the fee throughout the years, if the funds were getting low. Gordon said if the committee did not like the three year wait to renew the fee, they could change that time period as well. University of California Berkley had a seven year time period for renew and they had a successful program. McBride said the fee language becomes the guiding document of how the fee can be used and how the program runs. LaVallee wanted to know what the record of spending had been in the SAF. He didn't think students should be paying money each quarter for a reserve. Gordon said there was a \$300,000 reserve, but at the rate of this year they would spend all of the reserve. Goodnow asked what happened to the fee if it was not passed by the students. Rayner Fried stated the committee could put in language that says they want an increase, but if not passed it would continue at the current rate. McBride said if the fee did not get renewed there would be a part of the reserve saved to make sure that any approved grants could be funded. He noted the way the language was written in the past disproportionately affect students with lower credit loads. Dorrough asked what the total SAF income was annually. McBride said he would look up the exact amount. McBride said the fund paid for the SAF program staff and the reserve for funding grants. Rayner Fried stated some of the funds also went to renewable energy. Gordon shared that Johnathan Riopelle's hope was to move the fee up to \$.80 a credit, capped at \$10.00 per quarter. And he talked about the potential of adding another student employee in the SAF program a few years down the road based on continual growth. Gordon said the committee could increase the per credit rate, increase the cap, increase a percentage

per year over a multi-year period or not increase the fee at all. She asked the committee if they felt the fund needed more money based on the current spending rate. LaVallee shared that the committee typically had a large reserve of unspent money each year. Goodnow wanted to see how many grants were approved each year to see if the SAF was growing or stagnating since starting in 2010. McBride said in the past the SAF had only been doing energy focused programs, but had recently expanded their idea of sustainability. Chloupek said since the fund had a broader scope of sustainability and more applications they felt it would make sense to raise the fee. They stated they liked Riopelle's rate increase idea. LaVallee said he did not want to raise the fund based on one year of spending money. McBride said in the past they had an issue of granting money that was never getting used because of lack of follow through. He stated maybe the committee creates a sunset clause for grants. Gordon said if the group did not increase and they went through all the funds. At the beginning of the next year there would be no reserves and the SAF might have to be more competitive in their grant giving. LaVallee asked what a reasonable amount of reserves was for the fund. Rayner Fried said large grant projects can vary in cost and could wipe out the budget at the beginning of the year if a high cost project comes through. She also said the SAF staff was looking at outreach that didn't focus on grant applications because they were worried there would not be any money left. Dorrough asked how much more money they would receive if they raised the cap to \$10.00. Gordon estimated an additional \$45,000 per quarter with that increase. She asked whether they want the grant to be accessible to students or do they not want the fee to be a burden on students. McBride said the committee had discussed the benefits of competition in the past and whether that could benefit the fund. Goodnow asked about the perception of the burden of student fees was and if the students understand the benefit they received from the fees they paid. She worried about making the fee too competitive because the students with more affluent backgrounds might have more advantage in social capital, time and other resources. McBride asked the committee to think about the responsibility it had to find out what the student body wanted. Rayner Fried said the SAF fee was the second lowest fee on campus and had looked into creating a survey about asking students about the fee. She was unsure if this was something the committee wanted to pursue. Gordon felt there were student voices in the room, in a variety of forms that have the responsibility of speaking for the student body. She expressed there wasn't time for a survey and there were a lot of students that didn't have the knowledge to make a decision like that and the informed students in the room could. Mogilevsky said she would rather have someone vote the fee down because they don't want it than vote for it because they don't know what it was. Chloupek felt that the committee was transparent enough for students to be involved. Gordon asked how the committee felt about the fee overall. Goodnow said she was comfortable with a small increase. Mogilevsky agreed with a small increase, but wanted more detail. Dorrough said he was nervous about the \$3.00 cap increase because that would essentially increase the fee by 45%. Goodnow said she would be comfortable with an \$8.00 cap on the fee. Gordon said she would bring back a rough draft of the fee language the following week. Goodnow mentioned she would also like to increase the fee renewal every five years.

Annie Gordon adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.