



Western Washington University Associated Students Sustainable Action Fund Committee

Friday, April 13th, 2018 9:00 AM VU567

Members:

Present: *Annie Gordon (ASVP for Student Life), Alex LaVallee (ASVP for Business & Operations), Kate Rayner Fried (AS Sustainable Action Fund Education Coordinator), Johnathan Riopelle (AS Sustainable Action Fund Grant Program Coordinator), Scott Dorrough (Campus Energy Manager), Crow Chloupek (Student at Large) and Pauline Mogilevsky (Student at Large).*

Absent:

Advisor: *Greg McBride*

Secretary: *Chloe Callahan*

Guests:

Motions:

SAF-18-S-1 Approval of the minutes for March 14th, 2018.

Annie Gordon called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of the Minutes

a. March 14th

MOTION: *SAF-18-S-1 by Gordon*

Approval of the minutes for March 14th, 2018 with the addition of updating the date listed.

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

III. Information Item

a. Project ZeNETH

Kellen Lynch stated the core of the project was the idea that people should be creating living systems and living education. He said the standard American house was studied in the Energy Studies Department in relation to how to make them more efficient. However, traditional housing was not the solution, especially with local housing issues. In Bellingham only 2% of housing units are available for people to move into at any given point, meaning it is difficult for people to find housing. Another problem the project hoped to address, was they felt the resources on campus and in Bellingham were not being used effectively, such as the SAF. The project would make student learning hands on and active. He said a tiny house had a lot of interest from students at the time. He showed the committee a few of the designs the group had come up with. The tiny house would be built on a 28ft trailer and utilized a lot a sustainable materials and energy efficient resources. They wanted it to represent the Pacific North West in the design of the tiny home. They wanted people to be able to view themselves living in a

tiny home similar to theirs. The goal was to make the tiny house affordable. The hope was that someone would be able to pay it off within ten years, at their current monthly rent (about \$600/month in Bellingham). The team wanted to make the blueprints accessible to students so they could build something similar in their future. The team was requesting \$79,131 for capital cost, student labor, contract labor, maintenance and promotional cost. They had instituted a campus survey and at the time 58/65 students said yes they wanted a tiny house on Western's campus. The project team was reaching out to students to get them involved in the project and at the time had 18 students involved. He noted the team at the time was male dominated and was working on addressing how to make the team more representative of the Western population. Gordon asked where the tiny house would be built. Lynch replied that they were working with the Technology Development Center down at the port to use their tools and construction space. They hoped the tiny house would be done next June and planned to have an open house event the beginning of that fall quarter. The tiny house would stay on campus for housing purposes and if that was not possible it could be used for class space, tours, etc. They were talking with the Outback to utilize some of that land. Dorrough asked what the team had done to incorporate net zero energy in their plan. Lynch said they were going to be tied to the electrical grid so they would not need an extensive battery set up, but they would be producing the energy through solar panels and reducing energy use through efficient design. Dorrough asked if they had talked with facilities and capital budget. They were partnering with the Office of Sustainability and working with them to determine those details. Gordon asked whether or not they had planned to have a student live there or use it was for classes. She also noted that if someone was housed there would be a lot of maintenance and continuous costs. Lynch mentioned that the Institute of Energy Studies would take ownership of the project beyond the grant. Anyone living in the house would understand that the tiny house would be a tour space and they would be a part of the data gathering. The main goal was teaching student how to apply their education in a real world scenario. McBride asked what the added value was to the students by actually building the tiny home. Lynch said the project was a student lead and they were working in teams that were self-sufficient in their work. He said the main idea was not to house students, but to teach students. McBride suggested the team should address space administration on campus. Gordon asked why their case study of UC Berkeley was requesting \$25,000 from their SAF equivalent and this project was asking for \$79,000. Lynch said UC Berkeley had corporate funding along with their funds, but by getting corporate funding they felt it took away from student autonomy. He felt the purpose of this fund was to support projects like this.

IV. Discussion Item

a. Budget Update

Riopelle said there was \$356,940 in the fund that was already approved for projects and not spent. They stated the Outback Experimental Learning Project Specialist grant for \$142,000 would be staggered \$44,000 each year. He explained that the fund would have about \$150,000 left for projects for the remainder of the quarter. Riopelle asked the committee how long groups should have after their conceptual application to come with their final application because the money becomes encumbered. McBride asked what the annual revenue was. Riopelle answered \$300,000 a year and stated that the operational staff costs would be decreasing the following year. He estimated with the fee increase next year the committee would have around \$250,000 able to spend on

grants after subtracting expenditures. This amount was not considering any roll over from this year. Gordon asked if the committee would feel more comfortable addressing what was left in the budget before they approved a grant. LaVallee asked if there should be a cap set on how much money should be set aside for projects. Riopelle said the sub-committee would be working on addressing that issue. LaVallee asked whether it was appropriate that students might not see the resulting project of their fee money. McBride mentioned that there was more immediate grants (the small grants) that students could see while they were still at Western.

Annie Gordon adjourned the meeting at 9:49 AM.