



Western Washington University Associated Students
Sustainable Action Fund Committee

Friday, April 20th, 2018

9:00 AM VU 543

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), Katie Winkelman (ESP Director) and Pauline Mogilevsky (Student at Large).

Absent:

Advisor: Greg McBride

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guests: Alyssa Webster, Shaylene Widom-North and Hanna Bridgham

Motions:

SAF-18-S-4 Approval of the minutes from April 13th and 20th 2018. *Passed.*

SAF-18-S-5 Approval of the Environmental Justice Campus Community Engagement final application, *Passed.*

SAF-18-S-6 Approval of the Project ZeNETH conceptual application. *Not Passed.*

Annie Gordon called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

I. Approval of the Minutes

a. April 13th and 20th

MOTION: SAF-18-S-4 by Chloupek

Approval of the minutes from April 13th and 20th 2018.

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

II. Information Item

a. Campus Community Collaborative with Sustainability conceptual application

The project was modeled by the community ambassadors for sustainability internship done the previous year. Webster said both Widom-North and herself had participated in the program the previous year and felt it was helpful in building a community with the greater Bellingham. They gained the experience of accessible and the benefit of affordable nutritious food through their work. They shared the scope and potential impact of this program planned to be bigger than the previous year. The program would consist of 8 student interns, 4 WWU offices, and 4 community partners. For each community partner and office there would be an assigned students to work with them directly. East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, Sustainable Connections, City of Bellingham and York Community Farm. The program would run from July to November and every week there would be full cohort meetings, involving all stakeholders, and on the off weeks the students would meet with their supervisor. The team saw their project as a chance to collaborate more with the students, Western's campus offerings and the community.

They hoped the bi-weekly meetings would provide space to analyze the sustainability in these organization/partner and how they plan to engage students in the fall. The goals were: equity and collaboration, helping students find healthy and safe community, merging campus and greater Bellingham area community together in mutually beneficial partnerships, and providing basis for long-term campus-community partnership. This could help students find a healthier community away from the heavy drinking culture in Bellingham. LaVallee asked how students were chosen for the internship. The team said through an application process where they would ask the students which office/program was most interesting to them. LaVallee asked who would make the final hiring decisions and the team said the project advisors. Dorough asked how this program would be operationalized. They were looking at a variety of avenues including: potential funding from the organizations involved, receiving school credit and possibly through federal grant money. They wanted money from the SAF first to prove the concept before asking those other options for funding. LaVallee asked if this program would only be targeted to certain majors. The team said it was targeted to any student that wanted to be involved, but the few clubs listed were ones that already had connections with the community organizations. The team also noted they wanted to make sure that the applications came out early so students had a chance to apply before they find another summer job. LaVallee asked if there was specific outreach plan. They said they were working with their project advisers to create one. Winkelman said their organizations and stakeholders had a wide network to work with so they should hope to gain a lot of student involvement and applications. Riopelle asked for more information about how students would be able to learn more about the other partners involved when each student only works with one partner. He also asked how the organizations and partners would be connected. The team stated that keeping the students at one organization for the program allowed them to build strong relationships and skills. However, they would plan time for students to visit each other's sites. The team noted that the City of Bellingham had expressed interest in bettering the relationships with Western students. Winkelman mentioned that these students did some intentional relationship building over the previous summer which helped to connect organizations on campus.

b. Supporting All Menstruators final application

Bridgham recapped that the event was a continuation of the Sustainability, Period event earlier in the year that talked about sustainable menstruation. As part of the event they provided free reusable period products to attendees because of the high upfront costs. The students filled out a google form to pick out which reusable menstrual product they wanted and the form went viral, which showed there was a high need for these items. She said they currently had 425 students waiting for their sustainable period products. She stated they had not intended for the form to go viral and wanted to make sure that their office, ESP, and the SAF upheld their promise to the students. They want this grant to fund the reusable period products and create a small workshop to provide education about the sustainable period products. The data showed that attendees of the event picked a wider variety of products and those that didn't attend, but filled out the form, overwhelmingly picked Diva Cup. The grant was estimated at \$14,000, but she did not think that all the 425 students that applied would reapply in person at the event for the products. She also stated they wanted to be aware of what demographics they were providing the products too and the students that have the economic privilege to buy these reusable menstrual products should do so with their own funds. Gordon was excited that the team wanted to

continue working with the SAF to support this grant. Dorough was ready to move this grant along in the process.

III. Action Items

a. Environmental Justice Campus Community Engagement final application

Winkelman felt ready to move the program through. Gordon felt adjusting the employee wages would not have a huge effect on the overall budget. Winkelman thought if the fund had enough money to pay a student a living wage then they should. Gordon thought this was a reasonable budget for two years of programming. Rayner Fried mentioned how the Environmental Justice position would not be in the ESP in the future so this programming could also fill that hole. Riopelle asked if the team would be allowed to come back to the committee in the future if the speaker fees were more than requested. Winkelman felt it would be reasonable for them to come back for more funds for speakers. Gordon expressed that the invitation to this grant is always open and that she felt confident in this proposal.

MOTION: SAF-18-S-5 by Winkelman

Approval of the Environmental Justice Campus Community Engagement final application.

Second: Chloupek Vote: 6-0-0 Action: ***Passed***

b. Project ZeNETH conceptual application

Gordon asked if members had more thoughts about the conceptual application. She noted the committee could approve a portion of this grant and not all it they wanted to. Winkelman felt there were other areas that the team could work with to sponsor parts of their project. She thought it was a large expenditure. In regards to the concept, she thought it was a high cost to only benefit a handful or so of students. She wondered with the longevity of the project if it would only be benefitting one major and/or one classroom. She was not seeing the future outreach needed to make the benefits more impactful in the application. She thought there should be more partners and stakeholders involved. Gordon mentioned the team had touched on their outreach plan more in their presentation. Winkelman said she wanted more information on the outreach in their application. Gordon thought if the project was approved she wanted to see a more concrete plan of how the tiny home will be implemented, stored and who would own it. She also had questions about whether a student would be living in it or if it would be utilized in other ways. She was curious if this committee would even see the final application for this project or if the application process would continue on into the next academic year. McBride had questions about asset management that would be a part of this and said there were certain stakeholders that needed to be involved in this process of building a tiny home that were not at the time. Dorough said the technical merits of this were dubious and he didn't feel the longevity was fleshed out yet. He also felt the money was a disturbing amount because they had not reached out for fund elsewhere. He felt more stakeholders like Bellingham Technical College should be involved. He stated he was not in favor of the application at that time. Mogilevsky felt the line between conceptual and final application was hard in the case of this application because details mattered so much. She wanted to see a more detailed conceptual application than a final application.

LaVallee said if the conceptual application was to provide an idea for the SAF to decide about whether or not the idea fit the SAF values they were not sure it would pass. He did not feel like this idea would be beneficial to the students. LaVallee also noted the team had already advertised that the tiny home would be built on Westerns campus through the Western Today. McBride said if the application was not passed through they needed to discuss clear values of why the proposal did not pass. Riopelle added that the team had said there were looking for funding outside the SAF and the question the committee should focus on was whether or not the idea fit the values of the SAF. Dorough asked if the tiny home article mentioned the SAF. He would be willing to work to word a statement questioning the viability of this project. Rayner Fried said the article had mentioned the tiny home project was addressing local housing issues in Bellingham and was concerned on how that was being framed. She mentioned the current battle for ADUs and how that might impact the tiny home idea. Gordon felt the team was boosting up the idea that they would be helping the housing issues but didn't see how it was being enacted. She thought the application was assuming that people would see the tiny home and be inspired to build their own. She felt the proposal was not currently coming together but that didn't mean it couldn't happen in the future.

MOTION: SAF-18-S-6 by La Vallee

Approval of the Project ZeNETH conceptual application.

Second: Dorough Vote: 0-4-1 Action: ***Not Passed***

Gordon felt there was some good feedback for how the Project ZeNETH team could rework the conceptual application to come back in the future.

Annie Gordon adjourned the meeting at 10:01 AM.