



Western Washington University Associated Students Sustainability, Equity and Justice Fund

Thursday, January 10th, 2019 1:00 PM VU 460

Members:

Present: Anne Lee (ASVP for Student Life), Johnathan Riopelle (AS Sustainable Action Fund Grant Program Coordinator), Scott Dorrough (Campus Energy Manager), Katie Winkelman (ESP Director), Turner Campbell (SEJF Project Coordinator), Crow Chloupek (QRC Representative), Aden Nevler, Grace Wang, Emma Lewis.

Advisor: Greg McBride

Secretary: Grace Drechsel

Guests: Seth Vidaña (Director of Sustainability)

Motions:

SEJ-19-W-1: Approve the minutes from December 5th, 2018.

SEJ-19-W-2: Authorize the Office of Sustainability to spend \$125,000 with a contingency of 25% to purchase carbon recs.

SEJ-19-W-3: Authorize the Office of Sustainability to use their best judgment to purchase the carbon recs.

SEJ-19-W-4: Table the vote for the approval of the SEJF Budget until next committee meeting.

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 9:0 AM.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION SEJ-18-W-1 by *Winkelman*

Approve the minutes from December 5th.

Second: Chloupek

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: *Passed*

III. Amendments to the Agenda.

Lee requested that the committee discuss Action Item B (Carbon Rec Purchase Renewals) before Action Item A (SEJF Budget Approval).

IV. Action Items

a. Carbon Rec Purchase Renewal

The conversation about purchasing carbon recs was tabled from the meeting on December 6th. The decision to be made is whether the committee should retroactively go back and purchase the recs, or use that money for Green Direct fees. Last time, the committee wasn't sure if Green Direct purchases would be comparable to carbon rec purchases. Vidaña said that he doesn't think that the committee can supplement the carbon rec purchases through Green Direct purchases. Each of the university ballot measures concerning this has said that we will purchase carbon recs.

Nevler clarified that it gets more expensive to purchase recs the longer that the committee waits. Riopelle added that there will be a point when the 2014-15 recs will no longer be available to purchase. Another decision for the committee to make, if they decide to purchase the recs, is whether to use a sole source or do an RFP, which is more time-consuming, but might lead to a lower price, but probably not. McBride clarified that traditionally, the committee has been trusted with making the decision of how to purchase the recs. The committee agreed to vote at this meeting since this is a time-sensitive issue. McBride recommended that the committee split the vote: first, whether to fund the carbon rec purchases, and second, how the carbon recs will be purchased.

MOTION SEJ-19-W-2 by *Winkelman*

Authorize the Office of Sustainability to spend \$125,000 with a contingency of 25% to purchase carbon recs.

Second: Nevler Vote: 6-0-1 Action: *Passed*

MOTION SEJ-19-W-3 by *Nevler*

Authorize the Office of Sustainability to use their best judgment to purchase the carbon recs.

Second: Winkelman Vote: 6-0-1 Action: *Passed*

Vidaña asked for committee preferences concerning how to purchase the carbon recs. The committee agreed that they would prefer the OS to explore the option of the Green Direct program first, and explore other options if that doesn't work out. Riopelle said that he will report on how purchasing is going at next week's committee.

b. SEJF Budget Approval

Riopelle gave a recap of the budget that was approved at last meeting. There has been an increase of the capacity of the budget due to the increase in the fee. This budget has an increase in classified staff on it, allowing for the option of hiring additional staff. Beyond that, there are no real changes. Another issue to explore is whether or not there should be a cap on the amount of small grants – it previously was set at \$40,000. There are also club grants, which will be approved through the OS. Winkelman clarified that the committee can vote to raise the cap mid-year. The concern is that the committee did not want to provide free reign for the OS to do whatever they would like, however there is a counter-concern that if the OS reaches a cap, then we are putting small grants on hold until this committee can vote on raising the cap. This year, we are close to \$20,000 so far – halfway there already, so we are expected to hit that cap. Just this week, a \$4,900 grant was approved to bring an environmentalist speaker to come and talk about hope. Lee requested that the small grant cap conversation continue next week.

McBride reminded the committee that if they vote to approve this SEJF budget, they are authorizing a new position in the Office of Sustainability, and to be mindful of that. McBride also asked Riopelle what fiscal year this budget is for, because it says FY17 – Riopelle said that is a typo, and he will fix it. Riopelle said that he doesn't believe that authorizing the funds for the new OS position will not end the conversation between the OS and this committee. It will be an ongoing discussion in order to ascertain whether a new position is implemented, and what that would look like.

Wang pointed out the total budget is \$218,000, and clarified that small grants are included in that. Winkelman asked to focus the conversation on the line item that concerns the new position. She said that behind the scenes, she has been collecting information and getting feedback on a position that would focus on the equity aspect of sustainability. She believes that having a position whose responsibility is to focus on that aspect would be valuable, but adding a new staff member does have its pros and cons. McBride asked if the expectation within the budget is that a new staff member could be hired before this fiscal year concludes. Riopelle responded that is a possibility, otherwise they wouldn't need the funding this year. He also clarified that he has been in touch with HR in terms of the legality of the position and its pay. Dorough expressed concern that there is an overhead of 50% for the program, and he would like to be convinced that there is a real need for the position, because that is money that could be going to other grants. Chloupek added that the capacity of student staff is not nearly as expansive as having professional staff, however it can be an option to discuss.

Nevler asked if we could vote on authorizing the position after there are applicants and a job description, and it is closer to being a reality, so we avoid just sitting on the \$45,000. Winkelman questioned how ethical it is to have people apply for a job that doesn't necessarily have funding.

Chloupek said that students have expressed to them that they are a little bit uncomfortable coming to the SEJ because of the lack of diversity and inclusion. They wondered if we could use this new position to increase diversity among grant proposals and the people behind those grant proposal. Specifically with the SEJF, that concerns equity and justice within the fund. Winkelman said that fostering equity and justice are her and Vidaña's intentions for the new position per their conversations. They were looking to model the position after other similar positions in the Associated Students.

MOTION SEJ-19-W-4 by Winkelman

Table the vote for the approval of the SEJF Budget until next committee meeting.

Second: Wang Vote: 7-0-0 Action: *Passed*

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.