



# SUSTAINABILITY, EQUITY, AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

May 13th, 2020

9:00am

Microsoft Teams

Present: Trever Mullins (ASVP for Sustainability); Kelsey Leppek (ESP Director); Emily Gerhardt (ASVP for Student Services); Christina Ngo (SAIRC Marketing and Assessment Coordinator); Soumya Ayelasomayajula (ESC Assistant Director for Logistics); Grace Wang (Environmental Studies Chair); Grace Wang (Environmental Studies Department Chair); Leigh Chaffey (Student at-Large); Alexis Blue (Assistant Director for Facilities Development); Shannon Sandberg (SEJF Project Coordinator); Turner Campbell (SEJF Project Coordinator); Johnathan Riopelle (SEJF Program Coordinator); Kamea Black (SEJF Project Coordinator); Greg McBride (Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities)

Secretary: Jude Ahmed (Executive Board Assistant)

Guest(s): Lauren Sanner (Zero Waste Western); Nora Harren; Carolyn Tierney

**MOTION SEJF-20-S-2** Motion to approve the Waste Sorting Expansion grant abstract **Passed.**

**MOTION SEJF-20-S-3** Motion to approve minus the budget allotted to gift cards and the money allotted for the gift cards is explicitly not approved. **Passed.**

**MOTION SEJF-20-S-4** Motion to go through the summarized version fully first before moving towards the full version. **Passed.**

## Mullins called the meeting to order at 9:01am

### I. Introductions

Mullins introduces Nora Harren, the succeeding AS Vice President for Sustainability who is here to observe SEJF meetings as part of her training for the position and Lauren Sanner, the Zero Waste Coordinator who is here to represent the Waste Sorting Expansion Grant.

### II. Revisions to Agenda

### III. Action Items

#### a. Waste Sorting Expansion Large Grant Abstract

Wang asks that if there is additional waste sorting, who picks that up, AS recycling or janitorial staff, and how is that added labor compensated. Sanner's understanding is that janitorial and custodial services would pick up the additional waste and it would be laid out on their usual route for ease of pick up. Riopelle says that the grant is laid out so that after the materials to expand waste sorting are acquired SEJF will not be responsible for further funding and it will have a nominal change to the labor but they did not have the budget to get the materials. This project is also supported by students from an Environmental Studies class. Chaffey asks if they have tried to measure the carbon reductions. Sanner says that from their 2016-2018 waste audits, only 1/3 of their landfill was true landfill products so this would reduce the carbon production by 2/3 and save money.

**MOTION SEJF-20-S-2** By: Wang

Motion to approve the Waste Sorting Expansion grant abstract. **Passed.**

Second: Moldenhauer    Vote: 9-0-0

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

#### b. Sustainability for a Resilient WWU

Riopelle updates the committee that the grant is still unsure as to the legality of the aspect of the grant which gives gift cards to students. There is still an ongoing review of that portion of the budget by external and internal authorities on the appropriation of SEJF funds. The grant is flexible in regards to what the committee feels appropriate. Funds could be redirected towards dining hall swipes or the food pantry if they find that they are not allowed to use the funds on gift cards. McBride wants to express caution towards the committee funding grants which are still in the grey area of legality. Mullins asks if they can make a motion to say that they approve it as long as it is fully legal and appropriate based on the decision on legality. McBride says it is possible, although it does mean the committee would be giving loose approval of what the grant is and offering a blanket statement of

authorization for use of SEJF funds. While the circumstances are unique, it does go outside of the quality of grants that the committee has expected from the committee. Blue asks if they can approve parts of the budget but not the part for the gift card. Mullins says that is possible and could be an appropriate decision for the committee. Riopelle recommends holding that part of the budget pending the decision. Wang asks if all student funds have to follow WAC guidelines. Wang would be in favor of amending the grant to allow the food bags and that gift cards are a bit ambiguous and come with the opportunity for abuse. McBride says they do have to follow WAC and wants to know if the issue is just the issue of gift cards or the gifting of the whole process of what state funds can be used for giving away. Mullins says they narrowed in on gift cards because it is different from the AS providing resources for students through something like a pop-up pantry. Ayelasomayajula asks if they could possibly give gift cards as an incentive for some sort of survey or feedback as opposed to a giveaway. She also asks if it is possible to make a motion with the contingency that the gift cards are not used as just gifts but maybe as some other alternative. The sooner there can be resources available for students during this time while school is still in session, the better. Ngo heard in the past that gift cards were an alternate to swipe because apparently the swipes may affect student's financial aid. Mullins says it is possible to do so and the basic needs committee would be able to offer options such as the gift cards through other funding such as through the Western Foundation. Riopelle suggests that the committee can ask the team to go back to the grant application team and tell them to expressly state the use of the funds regarding if the gift cards are not used, which is standard practice.

**MOTION SEJF-20-S-3** By: Blue

Motion to approve minus the budget allotted to gift cards and the money allotted for the gift cards is explicitly not approved. **Passed.**

Second: Wang Vote: 9-0-0

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

#### **IV. Discussion Items**

## a. SEJF Survey Key Points

Mullins reviews the training section. Mullins wants the discussion over this survey to impact the future of the committee and recommends that if any members are representatives of an office or department or group that they include the reflections regarding this survey and of their time in the committee in their legacy documents or communicate their experience to their successors. Riopelle asks how the committee feels about going through the full version of the survey, in order to see all the detail that committee members provided. Gerhardt says that they can still have a really robust and productive conversation with the feedback they are currently looking at before getting into the specifics of each and every response from each individual. Ayelasomayajula says there wasn't enough clarification on whether it would be fully shared or not so it may not be fair to completely release all of the feedback when members answered honestly and openly with the idea that it would be anonymous. Even though they didn't sign a name on it or anything, some answers may be obvious to a specific person

**MOTION SEJF-20-S-4** By: Chaffey

Motion to go through the summarized version fully first before moving towards the full version. **Passed.**

Second: Gerhardt      Vote: 7-0-2

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstaining: 2

Ayelesomayajula and Moldenhauer ask if there was formal training for this committee since they joined the committee later into the year. For those who join late it would be ideal to still have a training meeting. Gerhard says it would be good to have an understanding of other grant sources and what their purposes. Mullins will communicate the feedback to the next AS VP for Sustainability. Chaffey feels it would be helpful for a list of other grants and what their purpose, process, and ideas are to have on hand as a cheat sheet. Leppeck agrees that a consolidated guide would be helpful, regarding other funding as well as what a good grant looks like. If

members could attend other grant meetings they would benefit from better communication and collaboration. Ayelasomayajula says that the AS Finance Council has representatives for different AS bodies, although she is not sure if that is the space for discussing different grant bodies but it is an opportunity to hear on different AS budgets.

## **V. Adjourn**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:59am**