

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2010
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
President's Board Room - Burruss Hall

Present: Michael Coleman – Chair, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Bruce Ferguson, Ben Myers, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, John Randolph, Tom Tucker, Mike Cutlip, Jack Davis, Sara Murrill, Alex Funk, Kyle Gardiner for Elena Dulys-Nusbaum, Sandra Mullins (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Rick Johnson, Mintai Kim, Annie Pearce, Spencer Riddile, Sherwood Wilson

Guests: John Beach, Angella De Soto, David Gibbs, Richard Hirsh, Jim McCoy, Fred Selby, Sarah Surak

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Mike Coleman called the Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda.

Approval of the January 25, 2010 Minutes

The January 25, 2010 Minutes were approved by the Committee.

Old Business

1) Results of the Electronic Vote for the Proposed Revision 2 to Policy 5505

Denny Cochrane informed the Committee that 18 members voted and all recommended approval of the proposed Revision 2 to Policy 5505: Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction Policy. There remains one issue to resolve to finalize the draft revision. Once resolved, Denny Cochrane will prepare a cover memo for Michael Coleman's signature to be forwarded with the proposed Revision 2 to Policy 5505 to the approval authority Dr. Sherwood Wilson, the Vice President for Administrative Services.

2) Green Campus Challenge Update

John Randolph informed the Committee that Virginia Tech placed third among the state agencies and institutions in the Green Commonwealth Challenge, thus earning the eight hours of recognition leave from President Steger to be taken between January 25, 2010 and January 9, 2011. In the Green Commonwealth Challenge submission it was stated that the university would develop its own Green Campus Challenge. John Randolph presented the current draft Green Campus Challenge survey to the Committee for discussion. Several members provided comments and some recommended changes. He will incorporate the recommended changes. The goal is to distribute the survey in the next several weeks.

New Business

1) Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Status Report

Denny Cochrane briefed the Committee on the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment (VTCAC) Status Report. It will soon be available on the Office of Sustainability website and will be updated quarterly.

2) Academic Sustainability Progress Report

John Randolph told the Committee that the second survey had been launched to the academic community.

3) Eco-Olympics Update

SGA representative Alex Funk updated the Committee on the plans for “Eco-Olympics” to be held during the entire month of April 2010. The residence halls on campus will compete with each other on sustainability and energy savings events. A primary focus is electricity reduction. There will be 30-40 events with an award ceremony to the winning Residence Hall. A website is being developed. Earth Hour 2010 will serve as the kick-off event and is scheduled on March 27 from 8:30-9:30 pm. During that time the campus community will be encouraged to turn off lights and to be part of a global statement for action on climate change. Anyone interested in helping with the “Eco-Olympics” can email Alex at funka@vt.edu

4) Open Discussion

1. Angie De Soto announced the Office of Sustainability has a psychology student intern this semester that is developing a "campus culture" survey instrument. This survey will measure the attitudes towards and awareness of sustainability in students, faculty, and staff members. This data will be analyzed to see if the efforts in the Office of Sustainability are actually changing the campus culture and who is being affected how.
2. As the result of a question regarding metering buildings, the Committee briefly discussed the pros and cons of metering buildings.
3. Tom Tucker informed the Committee that the Commission on Faculty Affairs is moving forward on the university closing during winter break. It could be implemented as early as this year.

Future Meetings

The next scheduled meeting dates for Academic Year 2009-2010 are as follows and will be held from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall:

March 29, 2010

April 26, 2010

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.