

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2010
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
325 Burruss Hall

Present: Fred Selby, Melinda West (for Dwight Shelton), John Beach (for Mike Coleman), John Bush (for Lynn Eichhorn), Denny Cochrane, Rachael Budowle (for Rick Johnson), Bruce Ferguson, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, Mintai Kim, Richard Hirsh (for John Randolph), Nancy McGehee, Bradley Scott (for Becky Saylor), Maxine Lyons (for Tom Tucker), Tom Olson (for Paul Winistorfer), Kapil Panchal, Spencer Riddle, Emily Schaefer (for Lauren Miller), and Kara Dodson (for Kyle Gardiner).

Absent: Sherwood Wilson.

Guests: Angie De Soto.

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Chair Fred Selby called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Fred Selby introduced a modification to the proposed agenda, and the Committee approved.

Old Business

1) VT Green Campus Challenge Concluding Remarks:

Denny Cochrane provided a brief summary of the results of the Virginia Tech Green Campus Challenge that was conducted during the 2010 Spring Semester. He reported 50 departments participated in the Virginia Tech Green Campus Challenge Survey which represented over 4,700 (nearly two-thirds) of the Blacksburg campus employees. In order to encourage department participation, President Steger had agreed to invite a representative from our top four scoring departments to join him for a 2010 home football game at Lane Stadium. Martha Wirt, Tracey Keister, Cadet Major John Long, and Debbie Greer from the departments of Facilities Services, Materials Science and Engineering, Military Affairs (Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets) and University Scholarships and Financial Aid respectively were selected as the representatives from our four highest scoring departments. President Steger hosted at our home football game with East Carolina University on September 18, 2010 (see “E&SC 092710 Attachment 1.pptx”).

2) Status of Draft Revision 2 to University Policy 5505 “Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction”:

On June 10, 2009 former Commonwealth of Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine issued Executive Order 82 (2009) "Green of State Government." During Academic Year 2009-2010 the Energy and Sustainability Committee prepared a draft revision 2 to University Policy 5505 "Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction" that incorporated topics addressed in that executive order. While in the process of gaining final approval of draft revision 2, the current Commonwealth of Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell issued Executive Order 19 (2010) "Conservation and Efficiency in the Operation of State Government" (see "E&SC 092710 Attachment 2.pdf"). E.O. 19 (2010) supersedes and rescinds E.O. 82 (2009). While many of the actions addressed in E.O 19 (2010) are similar to those in E.O. 82 (2009), there are some differences. As a result, Denny Cochrane proposed the Committee revisit the current draft revision 2 to University Policy 5505 to make appropriate changes before seeking approval from the approving authority. The Committee members agreed.

New Business

1) Sustainability Week 2010 (Sept 18 -25):

For the fourth consecutive year Virginia Tech, the Town of Blacksburg, and the local citizens group Sustainable Blacksburg green partnership hosted Sustainability Week. Sustainability Week 2010 was held September 18-25. Denny Cochrane provided a pictorial summary highlighting the signature events for each day (see attachment "E&SC 092710 Attachment 1.pptx"). Especially noteworthy was the visit to campus just prior to Sustainability Week 2010 by Barbara Kingsolver and Stephen Hopp (co-authors of the University Common Book for Academic Year 2010-2011 Animal, Vegetable, Miracle). This visit included the "Virginia Harvest Meal Celebration" which featured an impressive local food menu. Rachael Budowle (Housing and Dining Services Sustainability Coordinator) stated the meal was held at the D2 Dining Facility, it was a huge success, and they fed over 2,300 including 175 from outside the university community.

2) Game Day Tailgate Recycling:

Angie De Soto updated the Committee on the September 18th Game Day Tailgate Recycling event. Co-planned by the Office of Energy and Sustainability, Student Government Association, YMCA, and Environmental Coalition, the event to kick off the season on was a great success. Football games are one of the most public events the university participates in, so addressing the impacts of these events will have a bigger impact on campus culture than some of the other behind-the-scenes initiatives. To give a sense of scale, 19.96 tons of trash were generated at the ECU game and only 10% of the total material was recycled. Close to 100 volunteers, 60 of which were from the Charlie Company of the Corps of Cadets, distributed a new recycling bag which is tinted blue and has "recycling" printed on it. They were stationed at the entrances of tailgating lots and walked through the 4 lots closest to the stadium to engage tailgaters. These efforts resulted in the largest tonnage of recyclable materials collected ever at a football game, the second highest recycling rate in the past two years, and a 730% increase in recyclables collected versus the JMU game. These efforts will continue to grow as the

season progresses with the culmination in the attempt to have a "zero waste" football game against UVA in November.

3) Office of Energy & Sustainability Scorecard:

Chair Fred Selby presented an overview of a proposed draft Office of Energy and Sustainability Scorecard to be used to track progress on implementation of the VTCAC&SP (see "E&SC 092710 Attachment 3.pptx"). Each of the VTCAC Resolution's 14 key points would have one or more metrics associated with it, reflecting either specific measures within the Resolution itself, the Sustainable Endowments Institute College Sustainability Report Card, or the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS[®]) assessment tool. The scorecard format is based on similar scorecards currently tracking status and/or progress of University Strategic Plan Goals (<http://www.president.vt.edu/strategic-plan/documents/SPScorecard.pdf>). He stated that a meeting was scheduled with Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Mike Coleman on Friday, October 1, 2010 to review the concept and format, and to discuss specific metrics and targets, and would update the Committee at the next scheduled meeting.

4) 2010 Annual Report on Campus Sustainability:

Chair Fred Selby informed the Committee of the recently completed "2010 Annual Report on Campus Sustainability at Virginia Tech" and demonstrated how to access the report from the Office of Sustainability website. Highlights and a copy of the full report can be found at http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/2010_sust_report.asp.

5) Proposed Future Meeting Dates / Times:

Chair Fred Selby proposed the following meeting dates for Academic Year 2010-2011, with all meetings being held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall:

- September 27, 2010
- October 25, 2010
- November 11, 2010
- December 12, 2010
- January 31, 2011
- February 28, 2011
- March 21, 2011 (BOV is currently scheduled to meet on March 28, 2011)
- April 25, 2011

The Committee members agreed to the proposed meeting schedule, time, and location.

6) 2010-2011 Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP Pilot Program):

Denny Cochran informed the Committee that the University has created a pilot program to solicit and respond to proposals from recognized student organizations to help advance campus sustainability. Representatives from the Office of Budget and Financial Planning and the Office of Sustainability have established the "Green RFP Program. The criteria for proposal selection, the process, timelines, and the format for proposal submission are described in the Memorandum, "2010-2011 Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP Pilot Program)" dated September 3, 2010 (see fourth attachment above). Student organizations are requested to coordinate with and submit their proposal(s) to the Office of Sustainability. The Energy and Sustainability Committee is tasked to review all proposals and to prioritize them. The Office of Sustainability will submit the prioritized proposals to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for funding strategies and approval. In order to meet the aggressive timeline and facilitate coordination, Denny Cochran proposed establishing a Subcommittee and volunteered to serve as chair. The Committee determined the Subcommittee must include one faculty member, one staff member, and one student member not associated with a student organization submitting a proposal. The Committee endorsed creating a Subcommittee consisting of Denny Cochran (Chair), Madeline Schreiber (faculty member), Rob Lowe (staff member), and Spencer Riddle (student member). Denny Cochran will have the lead for the Office of Sustainability to coordinate with student organizations.

7) Open Discussion:

Chair Fred Selby solicited ideas from members on topics for the Committee to consider addressing during Academic Year 2010-2011. Because of a limited amount of time available, it was recommended that members submit their ideas at the next meeting.

Spencer Riddle expressed the concern that VT Alternative Transportation's decision to begin charging \$15 to join the Bike, Bus, and Walk (BB&W) Program after years of the program being free will be a disincentive to those considering alternative transportation on campus.

Kara Dodson raised the concerns that existing campus bicycle racks do not have covers over them and that the number of racks is not keeping up with the increasing number of campus bicyclists. As a result, students are having to chain their bicycles to signs, trees, etc. for security, and as a result, chains are being cut and bicycles impounded in some cases.

Both these alternative transportation-related concerns will be discussed further at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting October 25, 2010, beginning at 2:00 pm in the President's Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.