

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2009
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
210 Burruss Hall

Present: Michael Coleman – Chair, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Lucinda Jennings for Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Rachael Budowle for Rick Johnson, Bruce Ferguson, Ben Myers, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, Mintai Kim, Annie Pearce, John Randolph, Tom Tucker, Mike Cutlip, Jack Davis, Sara Murrill, Spencer Riddle, Alex Funk, Elena Dulys, Sandra Mullins (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Sherwood Wilson

Guests: John Beach, Sean McGinnis, Angella De Soto, Jim McCoy, David St Jean, Kaitlyn Loh, Lauren Miller, Lauren Moore, Sarah Surak

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Mike Coleman called the Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

Old Business

- 1) Commission on University Support Resolution 2008-09C, “The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment” Approved by Board of Visitors on June 1, 2009.

The approval of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment (VTCAC) was a major accomplishment last academic year. The challenge going forward is to implement the VTCAC and make it a working plan.

The Committee approved to dissolve the sub-committee that was charged with drafting the VTCAC.

New Business

- 1) Sustainability Week 2009, Oct 11-17

Denny Cochrane informed the Committee that the kickoff event for Sustainability Week 2009 is Monday, October 12, 2009, at The Inn at Virginia Tech and will be led by Virginia Tech President Charles Steger and Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam. Posters were distributed and more information can be found at www.vt.edu/sustainability

- 2) *Ecological Intelligence* is the university Common Book. Author Daniel Goleman to visit campus October 11 and 12, 2009.

Daniel Goleman, author of the Common Book *Ecological Intelligence*, will speak on Sunday, October 11, 2009 at the Burruss Auditorium and will be available for book signing afterwards.

3) Governor's Executive Order 82

Jim McCoy talked to the Committee regarding the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order 82, *Greening of State Government*. Among other directives, Executive Order 82 (EO 82) requires that the state agencies and institutions develop either an Environmental Management System or a collection of policies regarding energy use, water use, waste reduction and transportation. Based on feedback from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Mr. McCoy advised the Committee that the most appropriate means for Virginia Tech to comply with EO 82 will be to augment the existing Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505 to incorporate EO 82 directives that are not currently included in #5505. Denny Cochrane has updated the policy and a draft has been sent to the Committee members for their review and comments. The goal of the Committee is to have the revised policy approved by the Vice President for Administrative Services and implemented as quickly as practical but no later than July 1, 2010.

4) Green Commonwealth Challenge & Campus Challenge

In reference to the Green Commonwealth Challenge section of EO 82, John Randolph prepared a survey, with a point system and possible awards to the participants, to gather data, make suggestions, and/or implement actions to reduce environmental impacts. Dr. Randolph suggested renaming this initiative to the Campus Challenge and suggested this to be an effective way to help implement the VTCAC. Distribution alternatives to reach the different audiences with the survey were discussed. It was pointed out that this challenge may also enhance the university's score on the Campus Sustainability Report Card. Volunteers to work on the Campus Challenge are:

1. Denny Cochrane
2. Annie Pearce
3. John Randolph
4. Madeline Schreiber
5. David St Jean

John Randolph will send out a draft survey to the volunteers and the group will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

5) VTCAC and Sustainability Plan Implementation and Status Report

Denny Cochrane presented a matrix of the Immediate Term initiatives from the VTCAC. The expectation is that the matrix will be updated monthly by Mr. Cochrane based on feedback from those individuals responsible for implementing each particular initiative. Mr. Cochrane will send the current draft of the matrix to the Committee members for their review and feedback.

One particular Immediate Term initiative from the VTCAC that was discussed at the meeting is the shutdown of building air handling units during the 3rd shift operation. John Beach informed the Committee that air handlers are currently being shut down in 23 campus buildings. Actions since May 2009 have resulted in estimated savings of \$137,000. Once the program is fully implemented, anticipated annual savings are expected to exceed \$300,000.

Alex Funk, SGA Representative, commented on the Virginia Tech Game Day Recycling Program. There were 150 volunteers who gave out recycling bags which resulted in a significant increase in recycled items. The recycling bags will be distributed at most remaining home games.

John Randolph, speaking for the academic program, reported that the individual colleges' initiatives to be green will be established under the Virtual Virginia Tech School of Sustainability which will develop instructional, research and outreach academic programs.

6) Open Discussion

Alex Funk reported that the student organizations will be selecting items from the VTCAC to implement.

Mike Coleman advised the Committee that the ESCO program was moving forward and that a company was selected during the last academic session to initiate ways to save energy, utility cost and emissions. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and the company is on site collecting data at the Power Plant. Mr. Coleman cautioned that full implementation of the ESCO program is dependent upon university/state funding which will be a serious challenge in the current economic climate.

Rachel Budowle, the new sustainability coordinator for Housing and Dining Services, was asked to update the Committee on the Dining Services' efforts in sustainability at the next meeting.

Future Meetings

The scheduled meeting dates are as follows:

October 26, 2009

November 30, 2009

January 25, 2010

February 22, 2010

March 29, 2010

April 26, 2010

All meetings will be held in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.