

Energy and Sustainability Committee Minutes (Revised)

October 15, 2008

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

210 Burruss Hall

Present: Michael Coleman - Chair, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Martha Wirt for Bruce Ferguson, Ben Myers, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, Sean McGinnis, Annie Pearce, Tom Tucker, Mike Cutlip, Bob Schubert for Jack Davis, Brian Perkins, Sara Murrill, Angella De Soto, Kristina Hartman, Sandra Mullins

Absent: Sherwood Wilson, Rick Johnson, John Randolph

Guests: John Beach, Don Leo, Brian Quam

1. Called Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mike Coleman.

2. Welcome Guests

Mike Coleman welcomed the guests, and all attendees introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

4. Approval of the September 25, 2008 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 25, 2008 minutes.

5. Old Business

- 1) Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505 Status: Mike Coleman forwarded the Revision of the Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505 to Sherwood Wilson. Sherwood Wilson has signed the revised policy and forwarded it to the President's Office for administrative review and distribution. Melinda West recommended we place an article in the VT Daily Electronic News once the policy goes into effect.
- 2) Feedback on Virginia Power Shift 2008 (October 10-12): Angella De Soto was pleased to report the statewide sustainability conference, Virginia Power Shift, hosted by the Environmental Coalition of Virginia Tech, was successful. Seventeen colleges and universities were represented with 400 students. Virginia Power Shift 2008 addressed issues as a state network on a state level. For more information go to www.vapowershift.org

- 3) Update on Sustainability Week 2008 (October 20-25): Denny Cochrane briefed the Committee on the events for Sustainability Week and distributed an updated calendar. On Monday Joel Salatin of Polyface Farms Inc. will give a presentation at the Lyric Theater on local food production. Throughout the day food from Polyface will be featured at the D2 Dietrick Dining Center. The Campus Tree Tour sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota will be highlighted on Tuesday, and on Wednesday there will be a Campus Sustainability Fair at Squires. On Thursday, John Randolph and students from his Studio Class will lead a Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Workshop at the Squires Student Center. The Third Annual Greening Virginia Universities and Colleges Conference will be held at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center on Friday. Other activities are listed on the calendar and on the website at www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability.
- 4) Update on the Campus Tree Tour 2008 (October 21): Virginia Tech has been chosen as one of just nine universities in the nation to be a part of the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota's Campus Tree Tour 2008. The Kick Off Ceremony for the Campus Tree Tour will be at 10:00 a.m. behind The Inn at Virginia Tech, Skelton Conference Center and The Holtzman Alumni Center overlooking the pond. There will be 100 trees planted in various locations; 45 trees will be planted along the pond. The university will be presented an award from the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota.

6. New Business

- 1) Development of the Draft Sustainability Plan and the VT Climate Action Commitment (VTCAC) In John Randolph's absence, Michael Coleman and Denny Cochrane briefly addressed the current draft VTCAC and encouraged members that have additional comments to submit them directly to John Randolph via email at energy@vt.edu. In preparation for the two workshops, John Randolph provided the Committee members with an electronic copy of the presentation titled *Sustainability Week Campus and Town Workshops* for their review. A copy of the presentation is attached as Attachment A.
- 2) Virginia Sustainable Building Network's Third Annual "Greening Virginia Universities and Colleges Conference" Denny Cochrane distributed a handout for the conference which will be held at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center on October 24, 2008. He will make a presentation on Campus Policy and Planning.
- 3) Other New Business
 - a) E-waste Recycling Event: Rob Lowe told the Committee there will be a FREE electronics waste (e-waste) recycling event on Thursday, November 6 – Saturday, November 8, from 9am – 3pm at the old Blacksburg Middle School. This is open to the public. For more information see the website <http://www.ehss.vt.edu/ewaste.php>
 - b) Michael Coleman informed the Committee that Facilities Services conducted a test of the chilled water system used for building cooling on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 14 and 15. The chilled water supply temperature from the central chiller plant, which serves 22 buildings on the north east side of campus, was raised from 42 degrees to 51 degrees to verify the heat transfer capacity of

the building's cooling coils and controls. This test will allow us to make provisions during the summer months to possibly "float" the chilled water temperature during the peak electrical demand period of the day which in turn should result in energy savings by reducing the electrical demand peak of the university thereby reducing the energy consumption and energy costs. This effort has tremendous potential to save the university a substantial amount in electrical energy costs as well as reducing our overall consumption.

- c) Angie De Soto informed the Committee that the Residence Hall Federation has joined with the Environmental Coalition and others in a larger umbrella organization called the Coalition for Campus Sustainability. This Coalition has 26 partner student organizations.
- d) Madeline Schreiber questioned if the recycling program would be affected by the budget cuts again. Michael Coleman said the budget cuts will not affect the recycling program.
- e) Denny Cochrane briefed the Committee regarding the meeting with Provost McNamee to update him on the students' interests in sustainability and the desire to have more sustainable classes and possibly a required class on sustainability. Annie Pearce mentioned that having a required credit class on the curriculum on sustainability would prepare all students regardless of their major.
- f) Michael Coleman said he and John Beach are moving forward in working with Energy Savings Companies (ESCOs).
- g) Robert Schubert informed the Committee that Virginia Tech's proposal for the 2009 Solar Decathlon was accepted. The competition will be held October 9-18, 2009 at the National Mall, Washington, DC. Virginia Tech's last solar house is displayed in the Virginia Science Museum in Richmond, Virginia and will soon come back to campus for display.
- h) Brian Perkins commented that it was his understanding that the Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505 is a subset of an overarching Sustainability Plan. Michael Coleman concurred. The immediate goal is to complete the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and the Sustainability Plan is more long term.
- i) There were other general discussions.

7. Future Meetings: The future meetings for the 2008 Fall Semester will be in the Presidents Board Room, Room 210, on the following dates:

November 17, 2008, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
December 11, 2008, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

8. Adjourn. It was moved and seconded to adjourn.