

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2011
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Presidents Board Room, Burruss Hall

Present: Fred Selby, Heidi McCoy (for Sherwood Wilson), Melinda West (for Dwight Shelton), Mike Coleman, John Bush (for Lynn Eichhorn), Denny Cochrane, Elena Dulys, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, John Randolph, Nancy McGehee, Becky Saylor, Paul Winistorfer, Kapil Panchal, Spencer Riddle, and Kara Dodson.

Absent: Bruce Ferguson, Mintai Kim Tom Tucker, and Lauren Miller

Guests: John Beach, Angie De Soto, Richard Hirsh, Maxine Lyons

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Chair Fred Selby called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He acknowledged and welcomed the following returning or new members to the committee: (1) returning committee member John Randolph, who was abroad during the fall semester; (2) new committee member Elena Dulys, VT's new Sustainability Coordinator, Dining Services who will be replacing Rick Johnson as the Director of Housing and Dining Services representative; and (3) new committee member Kara Dodson, who was selected to replace student member Kyle Gardiner, who is studying abroad this semester. In addition, Richard Hirsch was recognized and thanked for his fall semester fill-in role for John Randolph.

Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

Approval of the December 13, 2010 Minutes

Draft minutes from the December 13, 2010 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee.

Old Business

1) Draft Revision 2 to University Policy 5505: "Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction"

On December 13, 2010, the Energy and Sustainability Committee recommended approval of draft Revision 2 to Policy 5505: "Campus Energy and Water" and it was subsequently forwarded to the Vice President of Administrative Services for review and approval. This revision adds "Waste Reduction" to the policy title, and it includes guidelines and directives contained in Governor Executive Orders issued in 2009 and 2010. Draft Revision 2 was submitted in the standard "track changes" format. Denny Cochrane reported the VPAS review determined the Draft Revision 2 in the "track changes" format is not complete. Specifically, it is not possible for the reader to begin with the current Revision 1 to Policy 5505, and to track the proposed changes so as to arrive at the language contained draft Revision 2. This is an administrative issue and understandable as the draft Revision 2 was prepared over the course of two academic years. Denny

Cochrane stated he would take the necessary corrective action and resubmit draft Revision 2 to Policy 5505 to the VPAS for review and approval. The Committee concurred.

2) Demand Management Subcommittee Update

Fred Selby informed the committee that although electrical peak demand management for summer 2011 will continue to be vigorously pursued, approval and higher-level support will come from administrative channels and not via the governance process as originally planned. As a result, the Demand Management Subcommittee formed at the November 29 regularly scheduled meeting was officially disbanded. However, subcommittee members were encouraged to support the planning process as needed and the full committee would continue to be apprised of progress on a periodic basis.

3) 2010-2011 Request for Proposal for Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP) Update

Denny Cochrane stated that during the summer of 2009 representatives from the Office of Budget and Financial Planning and the Office of Energy and Sustainability developed the “Green RFP Pilot Program.” The purpose of the program is to solicit and respond to proposals from recognized student organizations to help advance campus sustainability. Eight student proposals were presented to the Office of Energy and Sustainability in early October 2010 and were subsequently forwarded to the Energy and Sustainability Committee for review and prioritization at the October 25 regularly scheduled meeting (see “E&SC 013111 Attachment 1 - Green RFP.docx”). The Energy and Sustainability Committee determined:

1. Four proposals should be forwarded to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for approval and funding consideration,
2. Two proposals needed additional analysis and were not recommended for funding at this time, and
3. Two proposals were not deemed feasible and were not recommended for funding.

The results were provided Office of Budget and Financial Planning for review, approval, and funding strategies on October 29, 2010. The Office of Budget and Financial Planning has scheduled a meeting to review the Green RFPs with the Vice President of Administrative Services Dr. Sherwood Wilson, the Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Ed. Spencer, and the Associate Provost for Resource Management Mr. Ken Smith.

New Business

1) RecycleMania 2011 “Get in the Game”

RecycleMania 2011 is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. More than 550 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada will be participating in RecycleMania 2011. This is the sixth consecutive year that Virginia Tech has participated.

Over a 10-week period (January 23 through April 2, 2011) schools report recycling and trash weight data in pounds. Five targeted materials are reported and include:

1. Bottles and cans
2. Corrugated cardboard
3. Paper
4. Food service organics (composting)
5. Trash

Virginia Tech's goals this year are to increase total recyclable materials from last year by 10% and to reduce trash from last year by 5%. By comparison, last year the university increased total recyclables by 19,620 pounds (6.6%), and reduced trash by 60,880 pounds (4.7%).

The first two weeks of the competition (January 23 through February 5) is a "trial period" for schools to practice the process of gathering and submitting data, and these results are not scored. The final eight weeks (February 6 through April 2) represents the "actual competition" and these results are scored. Each week throughout the competition, RecycleMania 2011 will post the cumulative results. Schools are ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclable per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. At the conclusion, RecycleMania 2011 will post the final results.

Every member of the Virginia Tech Community is needed to "Get in the Game" and to do their part to help VT reach its goals for RecycleMania 2011. This is a wonderful venue to help achieve the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment's goal of an annual 35% recycling rate. Promotions include the VT Banner at Squires, VT News Daily E-mails, and posters (see "E&SC 013111 Attachment 2 - Recyclemania 2011.pdf").

2) 2011 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Nomination

Denny Cochrane informed the committee that the Office of Energy and Sustainability has nominated "The Virginia Tech Green Campus Challenge" for a 2011 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in the "Environmental Program Category."

Virginia Tech placed third in the Commonwealth of Virginia's "Green Commonwealth Challenge." One of the features in the submission was VT's intent to conduct its own "Virginia Tech Green Campus Challenge" (see "E&SC 013111 Attachment 3 – Green Campus Challenge.pdf"). The subsequent Virginia Tech Green Campus Challenge targeted administrative units to adopt policies and behaviors to conserve energy, water, and materials. The Energy and Sustainability Committee developed "The Virginia Tech Green Campus Challenge Survey" and it was administered online during the spring 2010 semester. Fifty departments representing over 4,700 employees participated in the challenge.

The Commonwealth of Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources has overall responsibility for this awards program. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and specifically the Office of Pollution Prevention, has administrative responsibilities. The

award nomination packet was submitted on January 7, 2011, and the results will be announced during the 22d Annual Environment Virginia Symposium held at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington on April 6.

3) Princeton Review's *Guide to 310 Green Colleges*

Denny Cochrane reported The Princeton Review will publish a 2nd edition "Guide to 310 Green Colleges" with a targeted release date on Earth Day, April 22, 2011. Virginia Tech was featured in last year's inaugural publication, "Guide to 286 Green Colleges." This publication receives a great amount of high-level visibility, both internally and externally, and is a great resource for prospective students. With assistance from several members of this Committee, the proposed Virginia Tech's "Profile Page" narrative was prepared and submitted (see "E&SC 013111 Attachment 4 - Princeton Review's 'Guide to 310 Green Colleges'.pdf").

4) Sustainability Student Intern Program

Angie De Soto provided a brief status update on the new Office of Energy and Sustainability internship program. A new cohort model is being implemented this semester and five interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate and graduate students, totaling 23 individuals, have been hand-selected to tackle specific campus challenges through a structured project format. Nine separate deliverables will be developed over the course of the semester ranging from a best practices report to the US EPA on game day recycling programs to a residence hall "sustainability advisors" program framework. Students are bringing what they have learned in the classroom to their teams to create a "campus laboratory" environment where they can learn from and interact with peers in different fields of study. Cross-team collaboration is facilitated through a robust scholar site and through several meetings over the course of the semester. In addition to the interdisciplinary academic experience, interns will be provided professional development, leadership, and teamwork resources to provide a framework for producing well-rounded and marketable program graduates. For more information or to gain access to the scholar site to upload resources for the intern cohort, contact Angie De Soto at adesoto@vt.edu.

5) Earth Week 2011 Planning Update

Kara Dodson informed the committee that the Environmental Coalition would again be coordinating and hosting this year's Earth Week. Earth Week will be held beginning Monday April 18 and culminating on Earth Day, Friday April 22. Each day will feature a different sustainability-related theme, with themes tentatively planned around food, alternative transportation, activism, and local issues; Friday (Earth Day) will feature a "Stepping Out"-style "Earth Day Festival" and concert. This year's Program Manager is Rial Tombes. Kara Dodson will provide program updates to the committee during the regularly scheduled meetings in February and March.

Elena Dulys added that on Thursday, April 21st, Dining Services will be putting on a special meal at D2 in celebration of Earth Day. This meal will feature local, sustainable, and organic items. In addition, Dining Services will be incorporating local items throughout several dining centers in normal menu items and taking extra steps to prevent excess waste.

6) Open Discussion

No new items were raised by the Committee.

Future Meetings

Dates: The remaining scheduled meeting dates for Academic Year 2010-2011 are as follows:

- February 28, 2011
- March 21, 2011
- April 25, 2011

Times and Location: All meetings will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall unless noted above.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.