

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2010

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Board Room - Burruss Hall

Present: Michael Coleman – Chair, Barry Key for Dwight Shelton, Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Rick Johnson, Bruce Ferguson, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, John Randolph, Tom Tucker, Mike Cutlip, Jack Davis, Sara Murrill, Spencer Riddile, Alex Funk, Sandra Mullins (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Elena Dulys-Nusbaum, Mintai Kim, Ben Myers, Annie Pearce, Sherwood Wilson

Guests: John Beach, Angella De Soto, David Gibbs, Richard Hirsh, Jim McCoy, Kapil Panchal, Fred Selby, David St Jean, David Gibbs, 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 as modified.

Approval of the February 22, 2010 Minutes

The February 22, 2010 Minutes were approved by the Committee.

Old Business

1) Eco-Olympics Update

Denny Cochrane informed the Committee that the Eco-Olympics, a student organized event to promote sustainability and energy savings in the residence halls, started this weekend and will continue through April 30, 2010. The residence halls will compete for points and the hall with the most points will win prizes from Coke and the university. Points will be posted at <http://www.housing.vt.edu/saveenergy> each Tuesday.

2) Green Campus Challenge Update

The Green Campus Challenge survey has been distributed and to date there have been eight responses. John Randolph asked how we could encourage the campus departments to complete the survey, especially since the deadline is April 9, 2010. One suggestion was to get on the agenda for the Department Heads Council to prompt responses. Denny Cochrane stated he would send a reminder message to all representatives on the initial contact list.

New Business

1) Earth Week 2010

Erica Putman, a member of the Environmental Coalition and coordinator for Earth Week 2010, shared the calendar of events for Earth Week. The calendar with more information on the events will be available April 1 at www.theecvt.org. On Earth Day, April 22, President Steger will join in the unveiling

of the LEED Gold certification plaques on the steps of Theatre 101 at 11:30 a.m. Denny Cochrane encouraged the Committee members to go to as many events as possible.

2) AASHE STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System Update)

Energy Manager Fred Selby explained the AASHE STARS system which is a voluntary tracking tool to gauge sustainability and action plans for colleges and universities. The STARS program was officially launched last fall and Virginia Tech is a charter institution. The three categories that will be graded for 100 points each are: (1) Education and Research (2) Operations (3) Planning, Administration & Engagement. Data will be collected similar to the Sustainable Report Card, and once the data is submitted to AASHE it will be public. STARS will be discussed more later on.

3) Proposal to Invite Lord Christopher Monckton To Visit Virginia Tech

Mike Coleman presented a request to the Committee from President Steger. A former member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors recently attended a global warming presentation by Lord Christopher Monckton at Liberty University, and he has contacted President Steger suggesting Virginia Tech consider inviting him to speak at Virginia Tech. President Steger would like the Energy and Sustainability Committee to review this suggestion and provide a recommendation. While some of the members were familiar with Lord Monckton and his views on global warming, others were not. As a result the Committee elected to defer making a recommendation at this time and to address it at the next scheduled meeting to be held on April 26, 2010.

4) Energy Conservation Update

Mike Coleman presented two slides that highlighted some of the results of Facilities Services energy conservation initiatives. The first slide "Total Conservation Results" shows that the extended air handler shutdown program during the break period lowered the campus steam demand by 12.27%. The second slide "Conservation and Steam Send Out" shows that despite having a significantly colder month this past January, the university experienced a decrease in the campus steam peak demand by 28.7% compared to January 2009. Thus, conservation is paying off. More energy conservation updates will be presented at the next meeting.

5) Open Discussion

Bruce Ferguson expressed his concern that there were so many paper copies of notices, invitations, events, etc. being sent through the campus mail that could be sent electronically. If a paper copy is desired, it could be requested if it was such that could not be printed from the computer. Notices are not necessarily targeted to the correct audience but are sent to each person regardless of relevancy. Sarah Surak shared that some mail services charge a fee for mail distribution to discourage paper copies. There will be more discussion on how the Energy and Sustainability Committee can address this issue in the future.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be the last one for this academic year and will be on April 26, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in 210 Burruss Hall.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.