

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes 9/26/2016

- **Present:** Debbie Greer for M. Dwight Shelton, Kayla Smith for Sherwood Wilson, Denny Cochrane, Steve Mouras, Rob Lowe, Judy Taylor, Tim Baird, Alex Guest
- **Guests present:** Karlee Siepierski
- **Absent:** Chris Kiwus, Jason Soileau, Frances Keene, Byron Nichols, Bruce Obenhaus, Alan Grant, GSA representative, SGA representative, Katy Shepard (guest)
- **Recorder:** Karlee Siepierski

- Committee reviewed charge. Question brought up by Tim Baird on how relevant charge is, and how would we go about changing it. Steve Mouras replied it is up to committee to pursue if they do want to move forward with this task.
- Steve Mouras reminded committee that each member represents a constituency, and to feel free to inform their constituents about details from this committee meeting.
- Motion to review agenda: Alex Guest
 - Second motion: Tim Baird
- Steve Mouras brought up approval of minutes from 4/25/2016 meeting – Debbie Greer pointed out error – ‘Frances Keene for Dwight Shelton’ change to ‘Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton’, ‘Frances Keene’ separate attendee
- Motion to change minutes to reflect above: Tim Baird
 - Second motion: Denny Cochrane & Rob Lowe
- **Agenda Item: Old Business: Old Green RFP and new Green RFP: Denny Cochrane**
 - Introduced in 2010-2011 AY, gives students clear process to advance sustainability at Virginia Tech
 - Supports 10 or more climate action commitment points
 - Students submit proposals within timeline, Office of Sustainability reviews, advances projects that are worthy, then brings advanced ones to committee for review
 - Green RFP to be released week of 9/26/2016
 - Updates on progress and completion from last year’s funded projects
- Question from Alex Guest: how many containers can one OZZI machine service?
Response from Denny Cochrane: 125 containers per machine.
- **Agenda Item: Sustainability Week Wrap-up: Denny Cochrane**
 - Partnership between university, Office of Sustainability, Sustainable Blacksburg, and Town of Blacksburg, 10th anniversary this year
 - Had 38 volunteers for campus tree planting at Davidson Hall
 - Kickoff event at Farmers Market with Town of Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam
 - 10th anniversary celebration tree planting at Henderson Lawn with President Sands, Carol Davis, John Bush, Angie DeSoto, John Randolph, and April DeMotts

- **Agenda Item: Green Tailgate Program: Karlee Siepierski**
 - Student-run program to educate tailgaters about how to recycle on game day
 - 91 volunteers to date, 1,000 lbs. of recycling collected after 9/3 home football game, 10,000 tailgaters reached, and over 1,500 blue recycling bags handed out

- **Agenda Item: Office of Sustainability Website: Steve Mouras**
 - Website has been reorganized, and now Sustainability has its' own drop down menu on facilities main page

- **Agenda Item: Open Discussion and Goals: Entire Committee**
 - Tim Baird asked: How can we get faculty to bring E&S items to the forefront of their agendas when they are mainly concerned with destination areas, pathways, general education reform, and increasing class sizes?
 - Points of discussion: Can we partner with other university committees on larger sustainability issues? Social justice, diversity, etc.
 - Points of discussion: Sending notes to collective groups on how we can advance sustainability at the university level may be helpful
 - Points of discussion: Do faculty and staff have access to submit Green RFP? No, only students at this point.
 - Tim Baird brought up: The charge of committee feels outdated and narrow. Sustainability has a broad definition and that can be considered within committee and charge of committee.
 - Points of discussion: Each committee member look into charge and scope of work
 - Points of discussion: How amenable are we to trying things with high risk of failure? May not be about success/failure, but about adding value to university.

- Motion to adjourn meeting: Rob Lowe
 - Second motion: Tim Baird