

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes 10/24/16

Present: Kayla Smith for Sherwood Wilson, Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton, Frances Keene, Denny Cochrane, Byron Nichols, Steve Mouras, Rob Lowe, Bruce Obenhaus, Ed Lener, Tim Baird, Judy Taylor, Kenneth Black (GSA), Alex Naar (GSA), Melvin Amos (SGA), and guests Karlee Siepierski, Katy Shepard, and Ruben Avagyan

- Motion to approve agenda: Katy Shepard, second motion Rob Lowe
- Motion to approve September minutes: Denny Cochrane, second motion Katy Shepard

- **Denny Cochrane: Green RFP Updates**
 - November 9th, 2016 is proposal deadline to Office of Sustainability
 - Getting word out about Green RFP through Division of Student Affairs, Student Engagement and Campus Life, GobblerConnect, VT Daily News, and VT Student Weekly News
 - Ask committee to spread work in classes and networks to make sure they are aware of Green RFP
 - Direct them to website and memorandum.
 - Denny is liaison for student questions
 - 1/23/17 is when E&SC appoints sub-committee for proposal review
 - 2/27/17 E&SC finalizes proposals
 - In March 2017, budget office reviews proposals and selects those to move forward, then announces results
 - 2015-16 projects are nearing completion of implementation

- **Ruben Avagyan: Campus Energy Consumption Update**
 - There are about 12 sources of GHG emissions that are tracked on campus
 - Fiscal year 2015 total carbon footprint is 306,024 tons of carbon emissions
 - Fiscal year 2016 total carbon footprint is 282,618 tons of carbon emissions
 - About 50% of emissions come from purchased electricity
 - This year we have almost 7% reduction for two reasons: natural gas use increased, and campus is reducing the use of coal.
 - Question from Savita: What do we expect by 2017?
 - Byron answer: We upgraded 2 or 3 existing gas boilers, looking for numbers to increase next year, but limited by equipment on campus (equipment geared towards coal)
 - Switchgrass, wood pellets could be used in future, the plan is to reduce the amount of fossil fuel if possible.
 - The overall picture is encouraging

- Steve comment: Every year we increase our energy need, so just staying stable was an accomplishment
 - Campus is growing rapidly, annual growth rate 3% and we are battling curve of a growing campus and at the same time staying flat or showing progress in cutting emissions
 - Between 2012 and 2016 we have close to 20% reduction of carbon emissions per square feet.
 - Energy intensity per square foot – we are staying flat
- **Katy Shepard: Student Sustainability Forum**
 - This was a new idea that we started last year, one in fall semester and one in spring semester, overall goal was to allow for collaboration of students and faculty staff between sustainability organizations
 - We are seeing an increased demand for these events, now trying to do 2 per semester
 - The fall 2016 forum this year was advertised at Gobblerfest, we had 13 presentations, and 80 attendees
 - The second fall 2016 forum will take place on 11/15/16, 6 – 8 pm
 - Goal in Nov is Earth Week brainstorming for spring, ideation and collaboration with non-sustainability organizations, to help them figure out untapped resources and collaborate across campus
 - In spring 2017 we will have further planning of forums again for Earth Week
 - Earth week was very productive this year, increased in quality and size, higher attendance
- **Karlee Siepierski: Student Sustainability Internship Program**
 - 18 interns this year split into four teams: energy team, recycling team, resident outreach team, and communications team
 - Recycling Team: currently working on getting a new OZZI machine installed in Hokie Grill.
 - They are also working on a “Hallowgreen” event, which will take place on Monday, 10/31 in front of Turner Place. Interns will be dressed in costume, one as the ‘bag monster’ to show how many plastic disposable bags an average person collects in a year, and will be educating students on what to recycle how to recycle it, and on the new single stream recycling that has been implemented on campus. Also working on “ThanksGREENing” D2 thanksgiving meal food audit event
 - Energy Team: The energy team has been heavily focused on our Turn Down 4 Watt competition this semester. This is a 3-week long energy reduction competition within residence halls and the Oak Lane community. The top three

halls to reduce their energy the most over three weeks will win cash prizes for their halls. There will also be other events going on within TD4W, including a series of “Green Talks” guest lecturers, a Stridekick fitness competition, and a Thrift Swap put on by the Resident Outreach Team

- Resident Outreach Team: The resident team has partnered with the YMCA to hold a Thrift Swap on Tuesday 10/27 in Squires. You can bring clothing, household items, and Halloween costumes to trade, and this is focused around the fall season. The resident team is also working on ‘green’ RA boards, a “Ghost energy” campaign, and a Green Open House this semester
- Communications Team: The communications team provides professional quality posters, fliers, digital ads, social media material, and photo and video coverage for all intern events taking place. They are an integral part in both the advertising and marketing and education and outreach within this program
- Looking ahead: Next semester we look forward to working on projects such as SolarPalooza, Earth Week, Meatless Monday campaign, Student Wellness Fair, and much more

- **Open Discussion**

- Tim Baird: looking at current charge in detail – maybe not as broadly stated as to what the committee deals with
- Sustainability definition, vision, mission statement – were revised in climate action commitment in 2014
- Steve Mouras: Opportunity if committee wants to do this – what is the process?
- Kayla Smith: Subcommittee comes up with revised text, then committee votes, if it is approved, it has an administrative review and then goes to commission on university support, they are required to do two readings, then vote
- Then it goes to university council for two reading and vote, then university council constitution is updated to reflect change.
- Tim Baird looked at sustainability missions for us, other companies, Coca-Cola has extremely advanced, related to person and communities, and then the world, economic development, conservation and natural resources. He also looked at 2013 climate action commitment amendment, wants to include more in committee charge
- Steve Mouras proposes that we form subcommittee that takes a look at this.
- Motion to introduce sub-committee: Tim Baird, second motion: Katy Shepard
- Karlee Siepierski acts as support person for sub-committee, Judy Taylor, Ken Black, and Tim Baird are all serving. Goal to have revised text Next meeting 11/14/16

- Motion to adjourn meeting: Steve Mouras, second motion: Tim Baird