

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 27, 2014

Room 325, Burruss Hall

MEMBERS:

Members Present: Kayla Smith (for Sherwood Wilson), Debbie Greer (for Dwight Shelton), Frances Keene, Denny Cochrane, Ruben Avagyan, Steve Mouras, Rob Lowe, John Chermak, Tim Baird, Bruce Obenhaus, Devita Mccullough, Sarah Mazza, Jason Soileau, David Mellichamp, Josh Barniak, Kaylyn Duda

Members Absent: Ashley Folcik, Sean McGinnis, Richard Benson, Chris Kiwus

Recorder: Denny Cochrane (for Emily Schosid).

Guests: Stephanie Smith, Joe Jajonie, Emily Schosid, Bill Hess, John Randolph, Kitty Zeringue

1. Welcome & Introductions E&S Committee Members; Review Charge

Mr. Mouras called the meeting to order at 2:03PM; all members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Mr. Mouras asked for changes to the agenda, and receiving none, the agenda was approved.

3. Old Business

a. VT Sustainability Plan; Second Reading and Approval: Mr. Mouras reviewed the highlights of the "Virginia Tech Sustainability Plan: 2014 Update and Supplement to the 2009 VTCAC&SP" and the methodology used. Key point is that STARS will be the foundation for our Sustainability Plan. He acknowledged the work and names of the Subcommittee. A vote was taken and the E&SC unanimously recommended approval. Mr. Mouras stated the document will be presented to the Commission on University Support for review and approval. The CUS may wish to forward it to the University Council for final approval, or determine they have the authority to approve at their level.

b. 2014-2015 Green RFP; Status: Mr. Cochrane reviewed the key dates and requirement for the E&SC. Deadline for receiving Green RFPs was extended one week to October 24, 2014. To date, OES has received, or is expected to receive, 10 proposals. The Green RFP Subcommittee will meet on November 4 to review all proposals. Green RFPs will be placed in one of three categories. Category 1 proposals are worthy of further review and consideration. Category 2 proposals have merit, but are not ready at this time. Category 3 proposals are not recommended for further review and consideration. The Subcommittee prioritize only the Category 1 proposals, and will make a formal presentation of their recommendation to the full E&SC at the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 17. The goal at that meeting is to have the E&SC determine our Category 1 proposal and priority recommendations with results to be presented to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning on or about December 17.

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c. STARS 1.2 Resubmission: GOLD!: Mr. Cochrane reported OES launched our second STARS 1.2 submission on October 15, 2014. We received a STARS Gold Rating with a score of 71.02. This is nearly 7 points above our score from our previous submission on March 19, 2013 and is well above 65 needed to achieve a Gold Rating. He reviewed the highlights and overall points achieved with each of the three broad categories: Education & Research; Operations; and Planning, Administration, & Engagement. Our score is the 21st highest one for the 271 institutions that have received a STARS Rating. Of the 135 credits rated, we saw increases in 23, a slight decrease in 3, with 109 receiving the same points as last time. This score means we have the 2d highest score in the Atlantic Coast Conference behind Georgia Tech and we passed Duke and UNC.

4. New Business

a. Energy Initiatives: Mr. Avagyan provided an update on current energy initiatives and it was well received. He said his top priority is to develop a Strategic Energy Plan for Virginia Tech. He addressed metering infrastructure improvements and Mr. Chermak suggested we explore opportunities for alumni to contribute to the financing. Mr. Randolph reminder us how important life cycle cost analysis is when reviewing new construction and major renovation projects. Mr. Avagyan concluded by stating energy management is a process of continuous monitoring and making improvements.

b. Resident Hall Energy Competition: Mr. Mouras announced the completion in underway having started on October 20 and it will conclude four weeks later on November 14 just prior to our next E&SC meeting.

5. Open Discussion: Mr. Mouras requested additional thoughts on recommendations on areas of interest from our members. He offered a few ideas to include the following:

- Update Campus Policy 5505: Energy, Water & Waste Reduction
- Review the E&SC "Charge Statement"

Future E&SC Agenda Items:

- Energy Management – Future Initiatives
- Recycling Overview (John Chermak requested)

Next Meeting; November 17, 2014 - Room 325, Burruss Hall

Adjourned at 3: 03PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denny Cochrane
