

**Western Washington University Associated Students**  
**Green Energy Fee Committee Meeting**  
Monday, January 26, 2015 VU 462B

**Committee Members Present:** Zach Dugovich, Chair (AS VP Student Life), Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Neal Dickinson (Student at Large), Nate White (GEF Grant Program Coordinator), Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs), Patrick Eckroth (Student at Large), Sadie Normoyle (AS ESP Associate Director), Colin Ridgely (GEF Education Coordinator)

**Advisors:** Greg McBride

**Secretary:** Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees

**Absent:** Brian Rusk

## **MOTIONS**

**GEF -15-W-6** *Approve the consent agenda item.*

**Zach Dugovich, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.**

### **I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Dugovich said they're going to strike the 't' well and they'll also be talking about the budget under discussion items

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **III. Roles of Committee Members**

Dugovich said he wants to talk about role on the committee, Dugovich, Jaleesa Smiley, Vice Chair, Ed Simpson, Business and Financial Affairs Rep., Patrick Eckroth, Neal Dickinson, Sadie Normoyle, AS ESP Associate Director, and Brian Rusk are voting members. Normoyle is in a weird spot, she can't vote to approve projects. The three objective they need to do is approve projects that increase student involvement and education, reduce the university's environmental impact and create an aware and engaged campus community. The committee should keep those three objectives in mind.

### **IV. Information Items**

#### **A. Electric Bike Pilot**

Dugovich said Nate White, GEF Grant Program Coordinator, and he decided that they wanted to keep the conversation going on this. White said he sent out a Google Doc where members can add questions they have about the project. Simpson left some questions on it. Dugovich asked if this project would actually be used by students. *Neal Dickinson Enters.* Dugovich said he wants to open that question to everyone. When you look at the University of Nevada Reno's case study, it wasn't very successful. Dickinson said it that study it says the electric bikes were available for \$30 a month, he thinks people would use them but he's not sure it would be profitable. Dugovich said it's not supposed to be profitable. Dickinson said he thinks students would definitely use it depending on how much it costs. Colin Ridgely, GEF Education Coordinator, said he feels like they can engage students without them being the primary users. They've been talking about having people who work on campus, grounds crews, student employees, etc, use them. That's making campus more sustainable and setting a good example for students. There's precedent for that in past projects. University of Nevada Reno wasn't successful with electric bikes as a primary vehicle, but in terms of using them to go into town or go grocery shopping. They're not looking at a system with a bike for every student. There's room to try it. Simpson said maybe they can get university

residence involved. They could have a couple bikes at a residence hall that would be available for check out. Other departments might want to use this too. White said students are just one identified audiences. Faculty and staff are the other people that could be on board. That's been true for both iterations. Dugovich asked if they have spoken with maintenance at all. White said yes some people have expressed interest in having staff using bikes to get to campus. He's wondering if the grounds crew employee supervisor might be interested in his employees having access. There's definitely the possibility of off campus staff using it too. The 32rd street administrative office is one of those possibilities. Dugovich asked if risk management has been involved. White said they have an initial contact, which strengthens the project. They realize there's liability and risk involved. Dugovich asked where this will be housed. White said he believe Carol Berry with sustainable transportation has agreed to house the pilot. But they still need a long term project owner to be identified. They have spoken with the Outdoor Center bike shop, but there's no formal agreement. Simpson asked what happens when the bikes go dead. Can riders pedal them? White said they're still fully functional without electronic assistance. McBride said they can probably add the Outback to the list of departments that can use them. They have a bike program, they take their food that they grow from the outback and take it to the food bank every year. They did a bike transportation program last year, so they might be a potential user. White said he's not sure if use is the problem, the problem is paying for maintenance and eventual housing. Normoyle said University of Nevada Reno had problems with bikes being returned in poor condition, and who is in charge if that happens and what can they do. Someone at the last meeting talked that it could be similar as Project Mug, where users sign a contract or make a deposit. Vidana said some good context that this is conceptual. At some point they're going to work on this and get it solid before they go for actual funding. White said his hope is to give the questions to the team and then have them present to the committee around the questions. McBride said the line "we will recruit members of Western's faculty, staff and students to use them and make them part of the trips." Is that a weekly thing? It seems like kind of a vague statement. Providing mapping about who will be a pilot user, how long will they use it.

## V. Info/Action Items

### A. Campus to Compost

Dugovich said they have the campus to compost proposals. White said there are no updates, but he wanted to bring some numbers. The currently haul 500 cubic yards of waste down to Skagit County, it is not all compostable, about 100 of that could be used for this project. They estimate savings to be \$3,500. It would take the equivalent of 20 large dump trucks off the road every year. Vidana said usually the small grants don't come up for presentation. Simpson said it would be nice to have more on the creating student opportunities portion. White said they do have some points in the application. They seem very eager to show people the compost that's been made. Dugovich asked if he knows who will be in charge of constructing the bins. Simpson said Gary Hodge. Dugovich asked how long it would take to construct the bins. Simpson said it's very easy and quick. Dugovich moves campus to compost to a consent agenda item.

## VI. Consent Agenda

### A. Campus to Compost

*MOTION GEF- 15-W-6 by Eckroth*

Moves to approve consent agenda item.

Second: Dugovich Vote: 4-0-0

Action: Passed

## VII. Discussion

### A. Effectiveness of Deadlines

White said he just wants to present to the committee their current thought on deadlines. They're treating these deadlines as hard deadlines for getting applications in. In practice they may receive a couple after hours, but generally they come all around the deadline. So the deadlines work, but he

doesn't want to set restrictive deadlines, where they start denying applications if they're in late. They encourage applications to be submitted on time. Dugovich asked if they see problems with doing away with deadlines. White said no, he thinks they should continue the way they have been. Eckroth said there could be a way to say something, but not make it as strict. Saying that not submitting it by a certain date could impact its ability to be approved. Ridgeley said they explain it as the dates that applications will be approved around and they have continual approval dates. Vidana said at one point they didn't have deadlines and they didn't get any applications. When they implemented them the numbers turned in went up significantly. White said the point of this wasn't do to away with them but to make the committee aware of what they're doing. Normoyle said she likes Eckroth's idea of having a recommendation with the deadline.

**B. Budget**

Dugovich said he got this right before the meeting, but here's the budget. Vidana said last time they met there were questions about whether they could use operating funds for staff support. Two things specifically were an adjustable desk for Nate and a portable computer. He's split up the expenses between the budget for projects and the budget for personnel and support. He believes there's enough money there to pay for these things. Dugovich said he thinks purchasing those items are completely under the guidelines.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Dugovich said the committee should keep in mind that the Green Energy Fee initiative is up for a vote this year. They should consider what to change with the fee, if they want to change anything.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:40 P.M.**