

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Green Energy Fee Committee Meeting**

Monday, February 9, 2015 VU 460

Committee Members Present: Zach Dugovich, Chair (AS VP Strident Life), Neal Dickinson (Student at Large), Nate White (GEF Grant Program Coordinator), Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs), Patrick Eckroth (Student at Large), Colin Ridgley (GEF Education Coordinator),

Advisor(s): Greg McBride, Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities

Secretary: Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees

Guests: Beth Hartsoch, Hayley Trageser, Jenny Hoover

Absent: Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Sadie Normoyle (AS ESP Associate Director), Jaleesa Smiley (AS VP for Academic Affairs), Brian Rusk (Faculty)

MOTIONS

GEF-15-W-7 Approve the minutes of January 12 and 26.

GEF-15-W-8 Move the Electric Bike Proposal to an action item

GEF-15-W-9 Approve the Electric Bike Proposal to move on to then next phase of the application

Zach Dugovich, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION GEF-15-W- By Simpson

Approve the minutes from January 12 and 26.

Second: Dugovich Vote: 4-0-0

Action: Passed

III. Information Items

A. Electric Bike Pilot Project with Presentation

The Electric Bike Pilot Project group presented on the project. Patrick Eckroth asked about the size of cargo bikes for the publicity center. He knows they have a lot to distribute Beth Hartsoch said she talked to Jeff Bates, Publicity Center Coordinator, about that. The one they decided on is an innovative bike called a tilt trike. Unlike a traditional trike, it tilts when they turn it. Bates told her this would be the best for them because some students using it wouldn't have rode a bike in a number of years. Because it's a trike they might be more excited about using it. Eckroth asked what the storing capacity is. They distribute 300 New York Times every day as well as posters, etc. Hartsoch said Bates seemed to think this would be a good size. She can get the exact demensions. Are you thinking they would need more trips than if they had a truck? Eckroth said yes that is a concern it could affect their budget. Dugovich said they just want to make sure it's practical. Eckroth said they want to know if it would be able to increase the amount they carry and reduce the number of hours. Hartsoch said part of the opportunity here is that there isn't an opportunity to use electric bikes in Bellingham. They would have to seek out the opportunity. The idea is to try some of these and see if they can use them operationally and learn as they move forward. She can definitely get that information though. Neal Dickinson asked how much weight it could safely hold. Hartsoch said it's within a couple hundreds of pounds. Colin Ridgley, GEF Education Coordinator, asked if they're just talking about student demand. Because it seems like they already know there is demand in departments. Hartsoch said she knows there are eight students who want to try it in the spring and she knows there are a lot more. Ed Simpson, Business and Financial affairs rep, said one thing that's been difficult with the projects is that they start as a pilot and they

never move on from that. He thinks this would be a good chance to figure out how to take a project from a pilot and make it go beyond to make it successful long term. Hartsoch said she agrees. Just thinking about this project or anyone starting to commute on a bicycle, it's all about operationalizing it. The key will be when the enthusiasm has faded, have they incorporated this into their process, has it gotten to the point where when someone needs a new vehicle their scope will be expanded. That's where they'll be successful. Especially on the office side, costs will be reduced for departments. If they can eliminate some number of fleet vehicles with electric bikes it would certainly be cost saving. Ridgley asked if they see this as a future grant on campus or does this pilot give the other office the information they need. Hartsoch said on the office bike side she can't imagine needing another grant. If they do it right, it shouldn't be a problem to convince someone with a budget to buy another bike and move forward on that. On the commuter side she could see applying for a further grant to further expand. She doesn't know what that would look like at this point. Whoever is going to be operationalizing it will have to be passionate about it. That will be a challenge. That process of getting it to be normalized takes a lot of effort. Greg McBride, Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities, asked what they are hoping to produce and develop for the community to take it forward to see what was a successful and how they should move forward. Hartsoch said one thing is that those that participating in the pilot will do surveys as well as participate in a group blog. Then a survey of the general campus community. They'd be open to other suggestions. Jenny Hoover said they would be capturing data from the bike trips and that would be the biggest deliverable. Hartsoch said an interesting piece would be how much they're using it and how far they're going. Hayley Trageser said she got a hold of a teacher who proposed research recently that said half the trip in a car in the United States are three miles from home. It sounds like there is an area where this could be a potential option for a lot of people. Hartsoch said Carol Berry, Campus Conservation and Sustainable Transportation Program Manage, has survey information on how students get to campus. She has other data sources they can use going forward. Dugovich said the appeal is that it's very innovative and something they've never done. The big question is how it will grow. Hartsoch said she thinks doing it right is going to be important. She would like to make sure they've really sorted through all of the details of how it could work. She's open to questions and discussion.

VI. Other Business

White said there's a group wanted to do an aquaponics project, incorporating fish and a holistic aquaponics projects. It would be a small grant. He's working with them to get the application up to par, the next part is for Seth Vidana, Campus Sustainability Manager, and White to review their application. He thinks it's different enough that it's not a continuation of the previous project. Eckroth asked about the rest of the process for the Electric Bike Project group. Ridgley said the way it works is that they submit a conceptual application, that's where they're at right now. Then they give a presentation like this, then the committee will vote to allow them to continue with an application that is even more in depth. So after this is approve they come up with another document that's the design and implementation phase. White said in the next iteration they'll address a lot of the questions. By approving this they aren't saying it will be funding, they're allowing the group to go on to the next step. McBride said if their goal is to do this by spring, the committee will have to move very quickly to achieve this deadline. Dickinson said he likes the idea of staff using it to transport materials across campus. But he still doesn't get the student portion. Simpson said there are lots of options for people doing quick trips with bike and there are places that bikes can get to unlike a car. If they can develop enough out of this to promote it to student as an option, it'd be a lot cheaper for a student to own an electric bike rather than a car. If they could at least develop growth it could be beneficial. Eckroth said as long as there's good selection for who gets to use the bikes then it could be beneficial program. His one problem is the potential short term of it. It's a lot of money to not be sure of housing after the year. It's hard to figure out if it would be successful for departments hoping to buy bikes. McBride said he agrees that extending it is good. Spring seems like a short test sample. Maybe spring, summer and fall and then maybe winter. His

other comment is that they're providing the bike for a student, does that mean everywhere they ride the school is responsible. There might need to be wording and a user agreement about who the users are and what constitutes participating. That's where he's thinking there's difference. White said he thinks the biggest issue is finding a permanent project owner. He thinks their campus based side is the stronger side. He thinks the commuting aspect is well intention but burdensome. Ridgley said it is making campus more sustainable by far. Dugovich asked if that does really increase involvement and education with green energy. Ridgley said he thinks it does as much as the other projects they've discussed. Simpson said another part is what kind of final report is put out there. McBride said they could also target other areas of student transportation. He thought the Publicity Center was a good connection. Part of student engagement could be focusing on student employees. White said timeline wise, to it well would take a while. Their spring deadline is ambitious.

MOTION GEF-15-W-8 by Eckroth

Move the application to an action item

Second: Dugovich Vote: 4-0-0 Action: Passed

VII. Actions Items

MOTION GEF- 15-W-9 by Eckroth

Approve the pilot project to move on to the next phase of the application

Second: Dugovich Vote: 3-1-0 Action: Failed

VIII. Adjourn

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:00 P.M.