

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

Monday, March 9, 2015 VU 460

**Committee Members Present:** Zach Dugovich (Chair, AS VP Student Life), 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 Director), Colin Ridgley (GEF Education Coordinator), Brian Rusk (Faculty Rep)

**Advisors:** Greg McBride, Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities

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

**Absent:** Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Jaleesa Smiley (Vice Chair, ASVP for Academic Affairs)

**Zach Dugovich, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**

**I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Dugovich removes GEF initiative update until the next meeting. He adds setting up a meeting time for next quarter. Nate White, GEF Program Coordinator, adds potential funding for events to discussion items.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**III. Information Items**

**A. Campus Electric Utility Proposal**

Sadie Normoyle, AS ESP Director, said she assumes facilities management is the one that will take ownership. White said it's not specifically stated, but that is the intention. They still need to get permission, but that's the idea. Patrick Eckroth asked what type of vehicle this would take the place of. The trucks driving through campus? White said yes. Ed Simpson said they've tried them in the past and he knows they've been evaluating them again. This is good timing. It's amazing how much of this is material costs. Neal Dickinson said they've been really successful at the vehicle research institute. They have at least 10 cars. Dugovich asked White and Colin Ridgley to explain the 10 by 12 program. White said it was a program aimed to reduce electricity, steam and other resource use by 10% by 2012. They did meet some of those standards, but didn't meet others. Simpson said if it will be used by facility management, they are off campus and usually their vehicles are licensed to get back and forth. He's wondering if they can do the same for this. Rusk asked what the situation with electric vehicles is there. Simpson said he knows those in charge of the motorpool have brought in several electric cars for evaluation this winter. He doesn't know if they've set aside funds in their fiscal budget to start buying them next year. He assumes they have, but he doesn't know for sure. Rusk asked if the mules they drive around campus now are gas powered. Simpson said he thinks so. They used to have one electric pick up and several golf carts with vinyl sidings. The problem was that you couldn't take them very far and they had higher maintenance than a regular vehicle so they went away from them. They may have been on a lease from the state. White said these are designed to replace light weight trucks. He knows that they were underwhelmed with some of the vehicles that had been brought in, so part of the team's plans is to work with the anthropology department to assess the needs of facilities management to incorporate them in the design. Dugovich asked if they know when they want to start building it. White said they want to use this as much of the group's senior project next spring. Greg McBride, Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities, asked if there is any information of other people on the fringe of development. Are lessons to be learned from people doing the same things? White said that's definitely something to look into. This may be one of the first of its kind. Dickinson said he would be interested to see how much weight they move. Rusk said they need to ask what

the range they can get with different load capacities, as well as battery power. White said they don't reference charging, but he remember them saying they don't need a specialized charging outlet. A good question would be about the charging plan. Will they have need stations down the line? Do they have spare outlets they can plug into at the shop? Charging time is important as well. Dugovich said it seems like a ton of time and work. Are they going to be able to do this? Dickinson said it is partially for credit. Rusk said this is what they do. He thinks they make a new car every year. White said he thinks they're fully capable of it and the cost is a steal for what they're getting out of it. Rusk said he's curious about how they usually fund these. It would be great if they brought this to competitions. Dugovich said he would like to see some blue prints or a final concept. Rusk said they could ask how far along the design is. Ridgley said he thinks the group is waiting until the conceptual application is approved to really lock down a design. Normoyle asked what the lifespan of one of these is. Ridgley said that depends on the battery. Normoyle said so it's just the battery that has to be replaced. Ridgley said yes, before any of the other stuff. Dugovich said that's one of the largest costs. McBride said on Simpson's point about maintenance and why it didn't work before, it would be helpful to lock down the project maintenance requirements if facility management owns it. There would be an expectation of reliability. Rusk said that would concern weatherization and heating as well. Simpson said finding out if it's a three season vehicle. White said that's part of the anthropology component will be. He would add reliability and safety, because it's being built for on campus use. Simpson said they should consult with risk management. Dickinson said he would like to see an example of something they've already built. McBride said he wants to know how they will engage the rest of the student body on this.

### **B. Earthtub Composters Proposal**

Dugovich asked how this coincides with the last composting project they passed. White said the previous project was yard waste and this is exclusively food waste from the dining hall. Dickinson asked what's happening with the food waste now. White said currently it's being composted through SSC, the local waste company. That's taken up to Green Earth Technology where it is industrially composted. This would take a portion out of that stream and then be used on campus. Normoyle said she looked at an example in Eugene where it saved an estimated \$10,000 per district. She's wondering if they can find examples on how much would be saved per year. Her other question was wondering how often the filters need to be replaced. Simpson said it would be good to talk to someone and find out how much of smell actually comes out of them. It's interesting for Fairhaven. Part of it is that they can get it from the food prep, but for the stuff that goes to the dish room they now have a pulper. He doesn't know if they can take stuff from that and put it in the composter or if that has to go to separate place. White said he thinks that would accelerate the process. Simpson said it'll be a challenge locating somewhere to put this, because there's not a lot of room. White said it is pretty big. Ridgley said it sounds like the Outback is interested in hosting it. Normoyle said there is talk in here about a solar panel in the future, so if it does end up in the outback that could happen now. Ridgley said if it's not connected to the grid and it just has a solar panel it wouldn't work at night. Rusk said it would work with a battery. Ridgley said the question is, is that worth moving it 1,000 feet closer to Fairhaven. It sounds like the bin could be moved if they got power to the outback. McBride said it's not cheap to get power to the Outback. Ridgley said if it's something that were to happen, it could work. Simpson asked if Meredith Penny and Jendy Edgerton were co-leads. White said yes, though he has seen Jendy more often. Simpson said he knows this is an Earth Tub, but then they start talking about Earth Flow. Is the Earth Flow just the product it generates? White said he thinks it's the same thing. The Earth Tub is smaller. Dugovich asked if they have talked to dining services. White said he does not think they've talked to dining services. Simpson said it looks like they need to figure out their stakeholders. White said he thinks it makes more sense closer to the dining hall because that's less efforts for dining services. Dugovich said he thinks they would be less likely to get involved if there employees have to walk all the way out to the Outback. White said he sees the Outback having more flexibility to send someone over to Fairhaven to collect the finished product, rather than the

other way around. Dugovich asked where the finished product goes once it's done. White said it can go anywhere on campus. The idea was the Outback because it's right there. But Grounds Maintenance has expressed interest in any and all compost generated. McBride said in their stakeholders they need to talk to University Residence, because they are the contact holder for university dining services and would have an interest in any and all equipment they're taking on. He thinks the Outback can play a good role in gathering compost, but he thinks they lack the mechanical skill and knowledge to maintain the equipment if it breaks. He thinks they need to find a funding stakeholder to fund the mechanical breaking and fixing. They need to really identify who the true owner is for long term costs. Simpson said as they get further along they should identify a permanent location with the necessary power requirements. They also need to identify other necessary requirements, such as what it needs to sit on or if it needs a water source. McBride said he thinks that will influence their budget quite a bit. Rusk said that Penny is graduating in the spring so that leaves Edgerton on the project, that's a lot to take on. He would suggest Edgerton try to pick up some help. On the compost, they can't really compost leftover hamburgers and hotdogs, etc., add in sawdust and expect it to compost. They want to compost the raw materials before they get cooked. He thinks they're going to need to work on a recipe with the grounds and maintenance people to get some of the grass clippings they need some actual vegetation in there. He doesn't know if they can separate out the food prep waste from food waste, but that's the stuff that's easier to compost. Ridgley asked if a tub with the capacity for 100 pounds a day was appropriate. Dickinson said they have to be putting out at least that much. Dugovich agreed. Rusk said they could ask them to estimate how much food prep waste there is. Eckroth said under the stakeholders section they say that in addition they need to figure out how much food waste there is daily, so that could change the plan a lot. Dickinson said Eugene Public Schools would be a good place to get in contact with because they're using a lot of the same foods and have been doing it for two years.

## **VI. Discussion**

### **A. Meeting Time Next Quarter**

Dugovich said they would sent out a doodle regarding a meeting time next quarter.

### **B. Potential Funding for Events**

White said Seth Vidana asked him to check in with the committee on an issue. The Green Tie Gala is looking for funds and Vidana was wondering if the GEF funds could be used for such a thing. Normoyle said she knows they tried it out last year. She doesn't think it was brought to the committee. It was decided outside of the committee that maybe it wasn't appropriate. Something happened where they didn't bring it to the committee. Dugovich said he thinks that after reading the rules of operation and mission statement, he thinks events can be covered under the GEF. He's not sure what kind of application process they would have to go through to get it done though. Ridgley said people have done events before. White said he does have one reservation. For events, yes general GEF money can be used for the Green Tie Gala, but this doesn't necessarily reduce Western's environmental impact. It's more of a showcase of what's been done. Ridgley said it is a fundraiser. Normoyle said it's also a reoccurring events, so they have found funding in the past. That's not to say that it's not hard to find funding and that they might not be able to find funding this year, but it's not a new event, it's happened for years before. White said it depends on if they're looking at money for a speaker, because if the speaker has an environmental message then they can check off all three things in the mission statement. But if it's for general support, he personally feels hesitant. Dugovich said he thinks it would be the same as if any other student came in to present a project. They fill out the application and if it fulfills all the requirements, then they're given grant money and if it doesn't then they can't help. Normoyle said she likes the idea of funding a speaker rather than just the general event.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

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