

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

Monday, April 22, 2015 VU 462A

**Committee Members Present:** Zach Dugovich, Chair (AS VP Student Life), Nate White (GEF Grant Program Coordinator), Ed Simpson (Rep. Business and Financial Affairs), Patrick Eckroth (Student at Large) and Sadie Normoyle (AS ESP Director), Brian Rusk (Faculty)

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

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

**Absent:** Seth Vidana (Sustainability Manager), Neal Dickinson (Student at Large), Jaleesa Smiley (AS VP for Academic Affairs), Colin Ridgley (GEF Education Coordinator)

**MOTIONS**

**GEF-15-S-1** Approve the minutes of March 4 and March 9, 2015

**Zach Dugovich, AS Vice President for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.**

**I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MO TION GEF-15-S-1 By Dugovich*

Approve the March 4 and March 9 meeting minutes.

Second: Eckroth

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

**III. Information Items**

**A. The Outback Bike Shelter**

Sadie Normoyle, AS ESP Director, asked if they have an exact location picked. Ed Simpson, Rep. Business and Financial Affairs, said he doesn't think they do. Normoyle asked if 10-20 bikes model is the same amount for their design. Also, based off of the other bike racks on campus, how long do they go before they need maintenance? Simpson said one of the university architects wants to be involved with the design of this. They're expecting this will be more of a shed or structure building to put bikes and trailers in, rather than a standalone bike shelter. Dugovich said he's wondering if the wood stop is practical. Simpson said it'd be cool to see. They're talking about recycled materials. Are they planning on them building this or do they want Facilities Management to build it. Nate White, GEF Program Coordinator, said they want to mostly work with the FM carpentry shop. Simpson said it's always interesting to see how they get an estimate out of them for materials. Dugovich asked if this is their own design. White said it is one of the student's designs. Simpson said there was an outdoor classroom built last year, almost if you take some of the angles, slopes and materials from that and make a complimentary building to that. Which would be a couple steps above some of the structures out there. White said he told them to look to the downtown co-op for guidance. They have that wooden shelter. That aesthetic would fit in there. The drawing have a lean-to aspect to it. Simpson said if they had some walls to it, they could have some signage about their programs on it. Dugovich asked why they're estimating it costing \$40,000-50,000, when the others cost \$20,000. Is that just because on the concrete? Greg McBride, Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities, said when they talked to him, he gave that to them as an initial case study. The initial prototypes of those bike racks was significantly more expensive than they are to build now. It was a matter of figuring out how to build them well. He thinks that's part of where that came from. Patrick Eckroth said he has a questions about the stakeholders. This is supposed to be supplemental to the Outback. But it also talks a lot about how it would provide for Fairhaven as well. But if they're using it doesn't that take away from the accessibility of the Outback. Normoyle said that was behind her questions of how many bikes can it hold. Simpson

said it's also a question of students in Fairhaven being comfortable having their bikes farther away. He's not sure how secure it will be at night. Normoyle said if it was somehow located right at the entrance to the Outback that is close to Fairhaven. But places it farther back into the Outback means students have to go through the woods, in the dark to get their bikes. Brian Rusk asked if they're talking about replacing it exactly where they're tearing the old one down. That's what he sort of inferred, but it didn't say that exactly. White said they're looking at two locations. One is near the outdoor classroom and there's another lean-to next to the green house. Both sites are about 20-30 feet away from each other. Dugovich asked where the closest bike rack to the Outback. Normoyle said in Fairhaven. Eckroth said at the back of it. Dugovich asked if a lot of student bring bikes into the outback now and park elsewhere. Normoyle said this would promote them to, she doesn't think they do now. White said he has seen a lot there in the height of summer. Simpson said part of the program is to store the trailers they use. White said right now they're in the shed getting in the way of everything else. This would help provide storage for that. Dugovich said there's a lot here in terms of student engagement. Rusk said that's a good aspect. Dugovich said that makes this a lot stronger. Rusk asked if this building would have to be permitted by the city. Simpson said it depends on how big it ends up being. That's one of those things you have to run by the city. Anything over 10x12 they're supposed to have permitted. If anything they're going to want to make sure it's not in the wetlands. Rusk said it'll have to be bigger than 10x12 to hold an significant number of bikes. They'd have to get permitting and engineering. He's just thinking about the price. He could see if they're using recycled materials, they could reach that price level really quickly. He's wondering whether or not this is even a pilot project. Building a bike rack isn't exactly a pilot project. Dugovich said it seems like it hits everything the GEF is here for. It engages students, it's a new idea a student is designing themselves. He likes it. White said talking with Carol Berry, Campus Conservation and Sustainable Transportation Project Manager, said it getting any additional bike racks on campus is really difficult because the campus standard is those student designed ones. Those are really expensive and have to be cited. Simpson said the Carver renovation will add a lot more bike racks. Which is good because that's kind of a high traffic area. Eckroth said he understands the aesthetic value of having natural products, but he knows it's a moist area. It would be good to have a natural wood stop, but he has a feeling that will deteriorate quickly. McBride said he thinks you can have a good wood structure that will last a long time, but that does require a good maintenance plan. Someone is going to have to be responsible for that. Which is a big concern in the Outback. Eckroth asked if there is any dedicated staff there to see the publicity go through. Dugovich said the purpose of this is not to put too much strain on the Outback employees. McBride said it should be noted that Jordan Jacobson, a student on the project, is an Outback volunteer. Normoyle said she thinks he's a work study employee there. McBride said he wants to make sure that the current coordinators voice is reflected in this proposal. This could impact what they do and they should have a say in that. He didn't see any real direct statements from the Outback saying this is something they want.

## **Discussion Items**

### **a. Committee Process**

Dugovich said he wants to know whether or not they should have teams come in, in the last ten minutes of the initial discussions to answer these questions. The problem they're having is that's its taking three weeks. There have been complaints about the process taking to long. Normoyle said that could definitely speed up the process. White said it just seems more efficient. He's happy to be the middle man, but some of these questions they can answer immediately. McBride said he thinks its fine. It does speed up the process and gives them a chance to think about where their proposal is. It might not speed it up if the committee's questions shape and reshape the project as it goes. Dugovich said he sees the benefit of it. They wouldn't vote on it regardless of if they're here or not. The problem is that White gets them the questions over email and then it takes past the next meeting for them to get back to him. White said some questions will take over a week. Rusk asked then what the benefit is to having them here. Dugovich said it's on their radar

immediately and they know what they have to do. McBride said there's some value in letting them ask clarifying questions too. White said it makes the committee more transparent too. Dugovich said if there are no objections, then they will begin this practice,

#### **b. Summer Committee Schedule**

Dugovich asked if those who plan to remain on the committee want to have summer meetings. They did it last year and they only ended up having one. It's difficult for the chair because they are getting trained in the VP for Student Life position. His thought was to wait until his position is filled and talk to them. White said they want to have this be a continual program and not have there be a big drop off in productivity over the summer. They're looking for some alternative. Maybe it doesn't need to be the full committee. Normoyle asked if there was a way to lower quorum for summer. Dugovich said the good thing is that the fee is up for renewal, so there will be a taskforce writing up new information on the mission, as well as this committee. Maybe that's something they could include. Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees, said she knows another committee she is on is able to work over the summer with a smaller committee. So it's probably doable. Normoyle said maybe it could just be one student and one staff for the summer. That might be more attainable. Normoyle said there was the idea of creating some sort of legacy document for the committee, so there's not such a loss of knowledge from year to year. That could be helpful for the summer folks. Dugovich said he can collaborate with her on that. White said it says that the VP for Student Life will present an annual report to the board on the GEF, this could be something included in that. Rusk asked what the process is for the transition to the new fee structure. Dugovich said last time they approved the fee the charge and charter was approved in October. McBride said this fee exists until the end of summer quarter. So there isn't anything about when it becomes the new way of doing it because they haven't had the taskforce. The current rules of operation would exist until there are new rules of operation. Normoyle said maybe it would be summer that the old rules exist but the new committee is trying to come up with the new rules of operation for the beginning of the school year. Rusk said it seems best that the transition happen over the summer when the new people are coming in. Eckroth said he assumes any funds that are left will be transferred over. Dugovich said yes.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **a. r/Well**

White said the committee was going to review, it has been changed to small grant. He will be reviewing that soon.

##### **b. Bringing Knowledge to Plastics**

White said there's a team wanting to do a film showing of a film called "Plastic Paradise," about the great pacific garbage patch. They're talking about flying in the director for a Q&A. As well as a waste sorting activity. That's also a small grant.

##### **c. Electric Vehicle**

White said they want to present next Tuesday at the meeting. They already received feedback.

##### **d. Earth Tub**

White said he's been working with them lately trying to figure out siting and they're asking good project owner questions.

##### **e. Recycling Your Power**

White said they brought a loaner elliptical into the ree center, which produces electricity back into the grid. They've been doing some outreach around that loaner equipment. There's some good momentum behind that. They'll see a finalized copy of that proposal soon.

##### **f. Electric Bike Project**

White said they've been doing research as well. They met with a former Huxley alumni who is working with a company called Spark Mobility. They're an electric bike share company and it could be the missing link in their proposal to have a third party service take care of the bikes.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:39 P.M.**