

Energy and Sustainability Committee Minutes
January 26, 2009
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
210 Burruss Hall

Present: Michael Coleman – Chair, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Bruce Ferguson, Madeline Schreiber, Sean McGinnis, Annie Pearce, John Randolph, Mike Cutlip, Jack Davis, Sara Murrill, Angella De Soto, Kristina Hartman, Sandra Mullins (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Sherwood Wilson, Rick Johnson, Ben Myers, Rob Lowe, Tom Tucker, Brian Perkins

Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment & Sustainability Plan Subcommittee and Guests: Chris Compton, Michael Ermann, Richard Hirsh, Ryan Johnson, Steve Mouras, Erik Olsen, Scott Reed, Mary Seyler, Lylah Shelor

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

This is a joint meeting of the Energy & Sustainability Committee and its subcommittee for developing the draft Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment & Sustainability Plan (VTCAC&SP). Mike Coleman called the joint meeting to order and welcomed the Subcommittee members and guests and introductions were made. The Committee and the Subcommittee will continue to meet jointly through the Spring Semester.

Adoption of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

Approval of the December 11, 2008 Minutes

The December 11, 2008 minutes were approved.

Special Recognition

Jack Davis recognized John Randolph, chair of the VTCAC&SP Subcommittee, for the outstanding job he has done thus far while leading the development of the draft Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan. It has been an enormous undertaking. He has excelled in his research, and in gathering and compiling the information for this document and to meet President Charles W. Steger's charge to have the draft for review and action by the University Council before the end of the 2009 Spring Semester. The Committee acknowledged John's work with an enthusiastic round of applause.

Old Business

- 1) Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505. The revised Campus Policy 5505 has been approved and was signed by Sherwood Wilson, Vice President for Administrative Services, on January 14, 2009. The President's Office will complete the necessary administrative actions and post it on the university website. Annie Pearce was the chair of the subcommittee to review and update Policy 5505. Mike Coleman thanked Annie Pearce and her Subcommittee members for their exemplary work and commitment to this task.

- 2) Commission on University Support Resolution 2008-2009A. The Resolution that proposes the Energy and Sustainability Coordinator and the Director of Housing and Dining Services as ex-officio members on the Energy and Sustainability Committee had its first reading by the University Council on November 17, 2008, without comment. The second reading of the Resolution and vote is scheduled for their upcoming meeting on February 2, 2009.

New Business

Draft VT Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan (VTCAC&SP) Update. The Commission on University Support (CUS) is scheduled to have their first reading of the draft VTCAC&SP at their monthly meeting on February 19, 2009. In preparation for this event, John Randolph and Angie De Soto worked on the draft VTCAC&SP over the winter break. To familiarize the CUS members with the document in advance of the first reading, John gave an informal presentation to the CUS at their January 15, 2009 meeting. The presentation was warmly received and appreciated. The presentation contained the current version of the Executive Summary and the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution. The draft VTCAC&SP incorporates three objectives: (1) A statement of Virginia Tech's Climate Commitment more specific to the University than the American Colleges and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment (PCC); (2) An action plan to achieve the goals of that commitment; and (3) A plan to enhance Virginia Tech's sustainability programs and culture. The Plan has six action categories to include: Administrative Structure and Governance, Facilities Infrastructure, Facilities Operations, Transportation, Behavior and Campus Life, and Academic Programs.

Draft VTCAC&SP Executive Summary and Resolution. John Randolph presented the current version of the Executive Summary and the Resolution to the Committee members. A general discussion followed. It was agreed that Angie De Soto will place the draft VTCAC&SP with Appendices on <https://scholar.vt.edu>. The Committee members can make their comments/suggestions in the Scholar for the Committee to review, or send them directly to John and/or Denny Cochrane. Some of the observations and issues discussed were: (1) Will the Governor's Commission on Climate Change prompt the state universities to "lead by example", (2) Is there sufficient measureable target(s) with the Transportation item in the Resolution, (3) Will higher management support the VTCAC&SP if and when conflict may arise, (4) We need feedback from Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Finance and CFO, regarding funding items in the Resolution, (5) LEED Silver is the minimum requirement, but we may want to seek LEED Gold in the future, (6) We need to revisit the Commitment in 2012 and periodically thereafter, (7) Should recognize that the students were the ones that asked President Steger to sign the President's Climate Commitment which resulted in the charge from President Steger to develop a draft VTCAC&SP specific to Virginia Tech, (8) Carbon neutrality is not addressed in the Resolution, (9) We need to ensure the language in the Executive Summary with the Resolution is consistent, and, (10) We need to review the Acknowledgements pages for completeness and accuracy.

Future Meetings

The next scheduled meeting dates are as follows:

February 23, 2009

March 30, 2009

April 27, 2009

May 18, 2009 (if needed)

All meetings will be held in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Adjourn

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.