

## **Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**

**October 26, 2009**

**2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**210 Burruss Hall**

**Present:** Michael Coleman – Chair, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Rick Johnson, Bruce Ferguson, Ben Myers, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, Mintai Kim, Annie Pearce, John Randolph, Jack Davis, Sara Murrill, Spencer Riddile, Alex Funk

**Absent:** Sherwood Wilson, Tom Tucker, Mike Cutlip, Elena Dulys-Nusbaum

**Guests:** Jim McCoy, Rachael Budowle, Angella De Soto, David St Jean

### **Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests**

Mike Coleman called the Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

### **Approval of the September 28, 2009 Minutes**

The Committee approved the September 28, 2009 Minutes.

### **Old Business**

#### 1) Review Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505.

Jim McCoy reviewed the process for the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order (EO) 82 (2009), *Greening of State Government*. Based on feedback from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) he presented at the September 28, 2009 meeting, the Committee agreed that Virginia Tech should not pursue the development of an Environmental Management System, but instead should expand the existing Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505 to include energy use, water use, waste reduction, and travel directives stated in EO 82 (2009). In addition, the Committee agreed to augment the existing Policy 5505 to comply with the other directives of EO 82 (2009). Mr. McCoy reminded the Committee that we have a goal to have the revised policy approved by the Vice President for Administrative Services and implemented as quickly as practical, but no later than July 1, 2010.

Following the September 28, 2009 meeting, Denny Cochrane provided the Committee with a draft revision of Policy 5505 for review that addressed all of the directives in EO 82 (2009). Discussion revealed that Committee members are in general agreement with the current draft revision of Policy 5505 with the following two exceptions:

- a) Regarding EO 82 (2009), page 4, Procurement Standards item 5, the Committee strongly recommends replacing the entire sentence in the current draft revision of Policy 5505 item 3.5.10, with language that "encourages an alternative to plastic individual serving-sized containers." Alex Funk reported the results of an SGA survey showed strong student support for a reusable beverage

container. The Committee agreed to table the exact language to be used until the next meeting, and in the meantime provide recommendations directly to Mr. Cochrane.

- b) Rick Johnson recommended replacing the word “biodegradable” in the draft revision item 3.5.2 with the word “compostable.”

## 2) The Campus Challenge Survey.

Regarding the Green Commonwealth Challenge section of EO 82 (2009), John Randolph said that additional work needs to be done to prepare a Campus Challenge Survey. Dr. Randolph stated that it is absolutely critical that it is done right and he intends for the survey to be open to faculty, staff, and students. Denny Cochrane, Annie Pearce, Madeline Schreiber, Graduate Assistant David St. Jean, and Undergraduate Angie De Soto have volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to develop the survey. Dr. Randolph will report the progress to the Committee at the next meeting. He noted that earlier this month the White House established a Green Government Challenge (see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/GreenGov/>)

## New Business

### 1) Dining Services Sustainability Initiatives

Rachael Budowle, the Housing & Dining Services Sustainability Coordinator, provided the Committee with an outstanding presentation addressing the many ongoing sustainability initiatives in Dining Services. Housing & Dining Services has recently made significant strides to promote sustainability in its operations. Dining’s sustainability efforts essentially fall into one of two categories: waste reduction and diversion, or local and sustainable food promotion. Dining is diverting waste through recycling, composting, and food donations. Waste reduction is being accomplished through trayless initiatives, careful planning, and soon through the promotion of reusable materials. Local and sustainable foods are being incorporated into the menu at the Farms & Fields Project venue in Owens Food Court. This is supported by the Dining Services Herb Garden located at Kentland Farms. In addition to offering local and sustainable foods at this venue, efforts are being made to incorporate a greater percentage of these foods into all Dining Centers.

### 2) Open Discussion

- a) Mike Coleman announced that in accordance with our current Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505, paragraph 3.3.1, Facilities Services’ Utilities and Building Systems Directorate has initiated the process of setting the thermostats to 68 degrees Fahrenheit for the heating season. Mr. Coleman reminded the Committee that last year we implemented this measure immediately following the 2008 Fall Commencement, however this year we want to begin implementation at the start of the heating season. Virginia Tech has approximately 5,000 thermostats on campus and a large percentage of those are manually set.
- b) Mike Coleman hosted an Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Chief Facilities Officers Conference during the period October 21-23, 2009. Nine of the 12 universities in the conference were represented.
- c) Angie De Soto suggested the Committee consider proposing and leading a friendly ACC Tailgate Recycling Competition for 2010.

- d) Angie De Soto proudly announced that she and another Virginia Tech student were selected as two of the 20 student representative of the United States to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in early December 2009.
- e) Alex Funk announced that over 100 student volunteers are expected to support Tailgate Recycling for the upcoming Thursday night football game on October 29.
- f) Alex Funk said that there is a lot of student interest in having a green fee/fund. He has participated in a series of student meetings and has had a conversation with Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Ed Spencer.
- g) The Committee agreed to have Alex Funk provide an update on student sustainability initiatives at the next meeting.
- h) Denny Cochrane thanked the Committee for their participation support for Sustainability Week 2009.

### **Future Meetings**

Dates: The scheduled meeting dates for Academic Year 2009-2010 are as follows:

November 30, 2009

January 25, 2010

February 22, 2010

March 29, 2010

April 26, 2010

Times: All meetings will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: The November 30 meeting will be held in Conference Room 325, Burruss Hall. The four remaining meetings will be held in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.