

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2021 – 2:00pm
Zoom Meeting Protocol

Attendees: Paul Winistorfer, Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Nick Woods for Ken Miller, Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Mike Dunn for Liza Morris, Blake Bensman for Frances Keene, Denny Cochrane, Scott Kerklo, Rob Glenn, Rob Lowe, Matt Eick, Erin Hopkins, Elena Lind, Robert Weiss, Jamie Stein, LaTawnya Burleson, Jack Leff, Brandon Burkey, Jennylynn Johnson

Absent: None. All members were present, or had a substitute.

Guests: John Randolph, Sean McGinnis, Jeri Baker, Nick Quint, Steve Durfee, Lowell Jessee, Wendy Halsey, Patrick Hilt, Jody Booze-Daniels, Nathan King, Emily Vollmer, Michael Bell

Chair Denny Cochrane called the Energy and Sustainability Committee (E&SC) meeting to order at 2:00pm. A quorum was present. He welcomed the members and guests.

Adoption of Agenda. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of the January 25, 2021, Meeting Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on January 25, 2021. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Prioritize the 2020-2021 Student Green RFP Select Proposals: Chair Denny Cochrane provided a brief review of the Green RFP Program, and the process used to select 22 proposals for further consideration from the 65 student proposals originally submitted. The E&SC is tasked to place the 22 proposals in priority order for review by the Office of Budget and Financial Planning. Rob Lowe, Chair of the Green RFP Subcommittee, presented the proposals in their recommended priority order for full committee consideration. During the discussion Blake Bensman suggested four of the five proposals pertaining to Dining Services be removed from the list as they needed more time for internal discussion, and the members agreed. The Green RFP Subcommittee's 2020-2021 Green RFP recommended priority order for the 18 select proposals was unanimously approved. Chair Cochrane thanked Rob Lowe and subcommittee members Matt Eick, Jack Leff, and Jennylynn Johnson for their outstanding work.

2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory & Assessment Report: Associate Professor Sean McGinnis led a team of six students in preparing our *2019 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Assessment Report*. Virginia Tech used the SIMAP protocol (developed by the University of New Hampshire) to review the results. SIMAP personnel provided laudatory feedback and just one minor suggestion. The STARS Program recognizes the value of having a third-party review our GHG results. Virginia Tech's University Relations turned Dr. McGinnis's report into a truly first class quality product for internal and external use. It was included in our 5th STARS submission and will be on the Office of Sustainability website.

STARS Update: Chair Cochrane announced the Office of Sustainability launched Virginia Tech's 5th STARS submission on February 18, 2021. We have a provisional score of 73.61 points (our highest ever) and our third Gold Rating. Our submission is currently under review by the STARS Review Team. Following their initial review, the team will provide us with issue(s) they may have with specific credits, and we will have the opportunity to address them. Once all issues are addressed to their satisfaction, we will receive our final STARS score and rating.

VT 2020 Climate Action Commitment – Financial Analysis Update: Dr. Chris Kiwus (Vice President for Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities), and Mr. Ken Miller (Vice President for Finance) have been charged with conducting a financial analysis of the cost to implement the Virginia Tech 2020 Climate Action Commitment. The analysis will be presented to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors for review and discussion on March 21-22, 2021. At the conclusion, the university intends to seek approval of the VT 2020 Climate Action Commitment Resolution.

Professor Emeritus John Randolph gave a through update on the progress of the Financial Analysis work. The analysis team consisted of 10 personnel with four representatives from Office of the Vice President for Finance, four representatives from the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure and Facilities, and consultant and himself. Work has been ongoing since mid-December 2020 with about 20 meetings. Costs addressed includes the big ticket items such as the solar options, energy efficiency, staffing and offsets. Big savings are accrued when looking at the net present value out to FY 2050. Professor Randolph concluded that the analysis shows we are not breaking the bank, we can do this within our budget, we need no immediate funds once the VT 2020 CAC Resolution is approved, and the CAC has milestones in 2025 and 2030 to review progress.

Earth Week 2021 Update: The Office of Sustainability Coordinator Emily Vollmer showcased the planning process being used for Virginia Tech's Earth Week 2021 Program. Earth Week 2021 will take place during the period April 18-24, it will have daily themes, and it will be mostly virtual. The Office of Sustainability, in partnership with the student group Environmental Coalition, is planning the schedule. Together they hosted their first round of Planning Forums on February 1 and 2, with 23 students from 19 different student organizations attending. A second round is scheduled for March 1 and 2, and a third on March 22 and 23. The goal is to have finalize the schedule by April 2. Chair Cochrane requested Ms. Vollmer provide another Earth Week 2021 update during the March E&SC meeting.

Climate Action Commitment Survey: PhD Candidate Jack Leff seeks to prepare a short document (one-pager or so) that addresses the key components of the VT 2020 CAC. He and members of the Graduate Student Assembly are working to prepare a survey for the university community, and a separate survey for the general public, to seek their input on what is most important to them. Mr. Leff will present an update of his progress at future meetings.

New Business:

Office of Sustainability Student Internship Program, AY 2021-2022: The Office of Sustainability Program Manager Nathan King announced we are taking applications for the

Office of Sustainability Student Internship Program for next year. He is the contact person and encouraged members and guests to reach out to students to apply at the following website:
<https://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/energy-and-sustainability-internship-program.html>

Open Discussion: Nick Quint, Transportation Network Manager, announced his office has prepared the Virginia Tech 2021 Parking Survey and encouraged all members and guests to participate

Announcements: The next E&SC meeting will be held on March 22, 2021 at 2:00pm using the Zoom protocol. (Note: the meeting was subsequently moved to the following day March 23, so as to not conflict with the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors regularly scheduled meeting).

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried at 3:00pm