

**Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**01/27/2020 2:00 - 3:00pm | North End Center Room 2440**

**Attendees:** Debbie Greer for Ken Miller, Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Mike Dunn for Liza Morris, Blake Bensman for Frances Keane, Denny Cochrane, Scott Kerklo, Rob Glenn, Rob Lowe, Virgilio Centeno, Elena Spinei Lind, Matthew Eick, Erin Hopkins (by phone conference), LaTawnya Burleson, Paul Winistorfer, Brandon Burkey, and Gustavo Ventura Gargioni

**Guests:** John Randolph, Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Joshua Trump, Nathan King, Barbara Wise, Sean McGinnis, Jody Booze Daniels, Lowell Jesse, Jeri Baker, Nick Quint, and Yasmine Sikder

### **Welcoming Remarks and Introductions**

**Meeting Agenda Approved:** Scott Kerklo motion to approve, second by Rob Lowe

**Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2019 Meeting:** Virgilio Centeno motioned to approve, second by Debbie Greer

### **Old Business**

#### **Green RFP Program**

Student engagement is an important factor in advancing sustainability at Virginia Tech. The university has created the Request for Proposal for Sustainability Initiatives from Student Organizations Program (called the “Green RFP Program”) to solicit proposals from recognized student organizations that supports the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan (VTCAC&SP).

#### **Green RFP Program Historical Perspective**

- Launched AY 2010-2011
- 83 proposals have been approved
- Funding in excess of \$1.2 million

#### **2018-19 Green RFP Results**

- Record 66 student proposals submitted
- Record 18 proposals approved
- Record 14 student organizations had approved proposals
- Record funding at \$552,000

#### **2018-19 Green RFP Implementation Status**

- Summary – 18 proposals
  - 8 done (green)
  - 2 partially done (yellow)
  - 6 working (orange)
  - 2 on hold (blue)

<b>Title (priority order)</b>	<b>Student Organization</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1. Indoor LED Lights- Math Emporium	Office of Energy Management- Student Interns	\$194,300
2. HVAC Upgrade- Math Emporium	Office of Energy Management- Student Interns	\$8,000
3. Hallway LED Lights Payne Hall	Environmental Innovation	\$10,700
4. Newman Library & University Bookstore Outdoor LED Lights	Environmental Coalition	\$14,300
5. Cassell Coliseum Parking Lot LED's	UAP 3354	\$16,700
6. Green Lab Initiative	Office of Sustainability- Student Intern Waste Team	\$3,700
7. Indoor Sink LED Lights for five residence halls	Environmental Innovation	\$103,600
8. Stroubles Creek Riparian Restoration	Stroubles Creek Coalition, VT StREAM Lab, Environmental Coalition, & American Water Resource Association (VT student chapter)	\$5,500
9. Mixed Paper Recycling Bins (Cowgill & Burchard Halls)	UAP 3354	\$2,000
10. Reusable To-Go Containers - (single entree, triple entree, soup)	UAP 3354 & REAL 3024	\$16,100
11. Rainwater Catchment System Hahn Horticulture Garden	UAP 3354	\$2,200
12. Water Bottle Refill Stations (2) Kelly Hall	Biomedical Engineering Society- (VT Student Chapter)	\$5,000
13. Hot Water Recirculation for select Residence Halls	Office of Sustainability- Student Intern Water Team	\$150,000

14. Electronic Waste Recycling Bins (2)	UAP 3354	\$400
15. Bat Boxes (location TBD)	UAP 3354	\$200
16. Battery Powered Blower for Hahn Horticulture Garden	Hahn Horticulture Garden- Student Maintenance Staff	\$200
17. Solar Power Charging Tables Bishop-Favrao	Department of Building Construction- BioBuild Studio Course	\$9,700
18. Outdoor Dog Run for Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine	Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Classes of 2019 & 2020	\$10,000
<b>Total Proposals = 18</b>	<b>Total Organizations = 14</b>	<b>Total = \$552,600</b>

### 2018-2019 Green RFP Implementation - Math Emporium

- Proposal received the largest funding amount in the nine year history of the Green RFP Program

#### *Before*

- Previous metal halide lights were dim and made a humming noise that provided a distraction for students and ran 24 hours per day
- Poor indoor air quality

#### *After*

- LED light upgrades
  - 311 LED lights were put in place that are brighter and make no humming noise
  - Cost: \$194,300
  - Annual savings \$90,512 payback period 2.15 years
- HVAC upgrades include 8 programmable thermostats and rebalancing of the entire system

Question: Why is there a jump in funding for AY 2018-2019?

Denny: The Office of Budget and Financial Planning (OBFP) is responsible for identifying funding sources for approved proposals. The Green RFP program has no funding ceiling. We had a record 18 proposals approved where three of them have funding in excess of \$100,000.

### New Business

#### 2019-2020 Green RFP

- Timeline
  - **Sep 16 - Green RFP 2018-19 announcement**
  - **Nov 8 - Proposal deadline to Office of Sustainability**
  - **Nov 13 - Office of Sustainability coordinates proposal review**
  - **Jan 27 - E&SC appoints Subcommittee to review & prioritize proposals**

- Feb 24 - Subcommittee presents recommendations to E&SC for approval
- Mar 4 - E&SC presents proposals to the Office of Budget & Financial Planning
- Mar/Apr - OBFP convenes Budget Review Committee- identifies funding sources
- Apr/May - Select proposals approved - implementation initiated

### 2019-2020 Green RFP Proposals

- Received 57 student proposals
- Identified 26 of the 57 as select proposals (have merit and are worthy of funding consideration)
- The following table showcases the 26 proposals

Number	Title	Student Organization	One-Time Cost
1	Sink Lights - Pritchard Hall (continuation)	Environmental Innovation at Virginia Tech	\$45,400
2	Sink Lights - Lee Hall (continuation)	Environmental Innovation at Virginia Tech	\$35,900
3	LED Lights - VT Rescue Squad (VTRS)	Virginia Tech Rescue Squad	\$8,600
4	Lighting Upgrade - Parking Lot	Environmental Coalition	\$38,300
5	Media Building Lighting Upgrade	Studio 72 LLC Students	\$35,000
6	HVAC Upgrade - Moss Arts Center	Office of Energy Management Intern	\$8,500
7	Findenser Units - Davidson Hall	Graduate Women in Chemistry	\$8,700
8	Autoclave - Engel Hall	Biochemistry Graduate Student Association	\$43,000
9	EV Charging Station - Perry Street Parking Garage	Students Sustainability Interns	\$15,000
10	EV Charging Station - North End Center Garage	Student Sustainability Interns	\$15,000

11	EV Charging Station - Burruss Hall	Students Sustainability Interns	\$15,000
12	EV Charging Station - Moss Arts Center	Student Sustainability Interns	\$15,000
13	EV Charging Station - Squires Student Center	Students Sustainability Interns	\$15,000
14	EV Charging Station - Visitor Center & Undergraduate Admissions	Student Sustainability Interns	\$15,000
15	Hand Dryers - Smyth Hall	Environmental Coalition	\$6,500
16	Stroubles Creek Restoration (Phase 3)	Stroubles Creek Coalition, VT StREAM Lab, Environmental Coalition	\$5,500
17	Water Bottle Refill Station - Math Emporium	UAP 3354	\$2,000
18	Water Bottle Refill Stations - Architecture Annex and Media Building	UAP 3354	\$4,000
19	Water Bottle Refill Station - Cheatham Hall	Student Sustainability Interns	\$5,400
20	Water Bottle Refill Stations - Visitors Center	Hokie Ambassadors	\$3,600
21	Drillfield Water Stations	Student Engagement & Campus Life Student Staff Committee	TBD
22	Monarch Butterfly Conservation	Student Sustainability Interns	\$1,000
23	Bike Racks - New Classroom Building	Students for Sustainable Practice	\$6,000

		& UAP 3354	
24	Mugs at Deet's Place	Environmental Coalition	\$2,000
25	Light Switch Stickers in Residence Halls	UAP 3354	\$200
26	Compostable Straws	UAP 3354	\$3,100
<b>26 Proposals</b>		<b>13 Student Organizations</b>	<b>\$352,700 (+1 TBD)</b>

- Summary – 26 proposals
  - 15 energy proposals
  - 5 water proposals
  - 2 dining proposals
  - 1 alternative transportation proposal
  - 1 waste management proposal
  - 1 landscape proposal
  - 1 stormwater management proposal
- Committee to form subcommittee to review 2019-2020 Green RFPs and to establish the preliminary primary order for 26 proposals
- Subcommittee presents recommendations for approval of the full committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>

**Climate Action Commitment Working Group**

- Presentation by professor emeritus John Randolph

**President Tim Sands**

- “Climate change represents one of the world’s most pressing problems”
- Dwayne Pinkney is charged to assemble an ad hoc meeting

**SVP & CBO Dwayne Pinkney**

- December 10, 2019 charge to VT CAC Working Group
  - “Our university has long been a leader in seeking a sustainable society”
  - “We will achieve our common goals and initiate positive change”
  - “All voices can be heard ... through community engagement”

**VT 2020 CAC Working Group Members**

- Professor emeritus John Randolph selected as chair
- Membership includes 10 faculty, 10 students (graduate and undergraduate), and 6 non-voting staff and faculty

## **VT 2020 CAC Working Group Deliverables**

- Deliverable 1
  - Summary of the university's progress in sustainability since the CAC in 2009
  - Outline the structure, partnerships, and arrangements to address sustainability
  - Include high-level data summarizing the institution's progress since 2009
  - Provide perspectives on how VT compares to other universities
- Deliverable 2
  - Update the VT CAC
    - Consider updates to the definition, vision, and mission statements
    - Outline clear, measurable, and realistic goals
    - Consider the long term impact of the goals to the university
    - Identify broad metrics for determining success
- Timeline
  - March 1: Interim report
  - May 7: Final report
  - Fall semester: Governance process and BOV approval
- Process
  - Weekly meetings
  - Eleven Subcommittees of WG and non-WG faculty, staff, and students

## **Eleven Subcommittees**

- Community Engagement Subcommittee
- Climate Justice Subcommittee
- Peer University Comparison Subcommittee
- GHG Inventory Subcommittee
- Energy Opportunities Subcommittee
- Renewable Energy Opportunities Subcommittee
- Buildings Opportunities Subcommittee
- Transportation Opportunities Subcommittee
- Agriculture/Forestry GHG Subcommittee
- Waste/Recycling/Composting and Procurement Subcommittee
- Budget and Finance Subcommittee

## **Working Group Process**

Subcommittees will do the bulk of the work and report to the CAC Working Group.

## **Open Discussion**

Question: I feel like we are missing a subcommittee to inform students on the problems of sustainability measures at Virginia Tech

John Randolph: This is a process. The students that have been demanding things must see the broader picture. The subcommittees that we have are meant to tackle the various demands that have been placed on us. Engaging staff, facilities staff, is necessary. There is a distinct breadth of the range of what we are trying to address.

Question: Go to the building subcommittee, do we have IT in there? We need an IT representative

John Randolph: Good point, we'll put that in there

Question: How can we get these committees to encourage students to address concerns with student sustainability such as trash problems?

John Randolph: A green campus challenge was used successfully in the past and could help all of our campus provide good ideas for various sustainable measures.

Comment: It's not just the physical side, it's also the softer side in the design process. What we have so far is well done.

Comment: I don't see members of the Campus Master Planning Group

Comment: If you don't see someone, including yourself, on a subcommittee then contact John Randolph

Question: What kinds of goals do you have?

John Randolph: Carbon neutrality and renewable energy will likely be two areas of interest. We will look at our peer institutions for other examples. Denny Cochrane encourages members to contact him with questions, suggestions, and ideas. Can also contact John Randolph directly via email at [energy@vt.edu](mailto:energy@vt.edu)

**Next meeting on February 24, 2020, Burruss Hall Conference Room 130, 2:00 PM**

**Adjourn**