

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
2/26/18 | 2:00 - 3:00pm | Burruss Hall 130

Attendees: Kayla Smith for Sherwood Willson, Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton, Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Jack Washington for Jason Soileau, Gwyneth Manser for Frances Keene, Scott Kerklo, Jeff Orzolek, Rob Lowe, Virgilio Centeno, Edward Lener, Sean McGinnis, Alex Guest, Judy Taylor, Alexis Trent, Siddharth Bhela, Aidan Bergel

Guests: Karlee Siepierski

Motion to approve agenda: Rob Lowe moved, Judy Taylor second

Motion to approve January minutes: Scott Kerklo moved, Alexis Trent second

Old Business

STARS Update

- Received preliminary results on 1/24, needed to revise 8 credits
 - Majority of credits in Operations, Planning & Admin
- Course inventory received exemplary status and will be shared with STARS network
- Anticipate resubmission on 3/1
- Princeton Review's ['Guide to Green Colleges'](#) captures STARS data on 3/2

Policy 5505 Update (Jeff Orzolek)

- Met last week to do an initial review of current policy
- Looking at history of revisions, the sub-committee decided to conduct an extensive review, taking into account changes in laws, technology, and current efforts on campus
- First meeting will be soon after spring break to begin in-depth look at policy
 - Sub-committee will compare document language to STARS manual and VT Climate Action Commitment to see if there is alignment between all three documents
- Additional stakeholders will be involved in effort including facilities, grounds, dining, etc.
- If there are groups that the subcommittee should be connecting with, please let Jeff Orzolek know, as they would like to be thorough in their review
- January's E&S meeting minutes state that the updated 5505 document will be presented in March, this deadline will not be met because of the committee's decision to conduct an in-depth review

Green RFP Update

- This is year 8 of the Green RFP program, Office of Sustainability received 48 proposals
 - Of the 48 proposals, the sub-committee determined 17 category 1 proposals totaling \$162,104 involving 10 student organizations
- E&S subcommittee met on February 22nd and finalized draft ranking of priority list
 - Category 1: 17 proposals that are realistic, doable, & can implement within one academic year
 - Category 2: 16 proposals have merit, but need further study and refinement
 - Category 3: 8 proposals that are not worthy of further consideration
 - Category 4: 7 proposals that are being pursued outside of Green RFP program

- Each category 1 proposal was explained and discussed within the E&S committee. The E&S committee received a summary table of proposals for purposes of review. Comments on the category 1 proposals are as follows:
 - Proposal #14 Cupanion proposal description needs to be fixed. Bottles are out of the proposals, just stickers are being requested
 - Proposal #15 clarify if signage is electronic or printed? It is printed
 - Aidan asked LED type question: Do different types of LED lights affect outdoor spaces differently? Facilities will study bulbs extensively similar to the process that was conducted in the Burruss tunnel during last year's Green RFP implementation
 - Scott recommended we look into Derring water bottle refill station locations due to planned renovations
 - Scott asked how the prioritization list fits into the budget funding model of the Green RFP? No budget ceiling, so the budget committee won't pick out of priority list, its purpose is to show intentional thought on which projects will be most successful on campus.
 - Sean asked if each proposal has to have a savings projection? No, many projections are not determinable or TBD. Sean is confident that many of the TBD's can be calculated, will work with Denny directly to determine.
 - Debbie asked where the revenue for the Ytoss goes? Right back into the Y's student-centric programming, which should be added to the proposal description.
 - Aidan asked if anecdotal documents can be provided with the proposals? Yes, can send to Denny, but it is up to the budget committee if they review them.
 - Sean asked about dining hall cups - do we have the capacity to wash all of them without purchasing more washing equipment? Gwyneth Manser will check on this, but the initial response is yes they have the washing equipment.
- Motion to accept recommendation of Green RFP priority list: Aidan Bergel moved, Virgilio Centeno second

New Business

Student Sustainability Initiatives (Karlee Siepierski)

- Internship application now open through March 23rd
 - Looking for 20 undergraduate students who are passionate about sustainability, all majors and years, 7- 10 hours per week for a full academic year
 - https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7VP8xe86xUTAIA9
 - Karlee is looking for potential projects around campus - if you have a great idea for a student project, please let her know
- Earth Week 2018 is 4/16 - 4/22, Earth Day on Sunday 4/22
 - Office of Sustainability events include: pop-up farmers market, stream clean-up, yoga class, electric bus demo
- RecycleMania competition week 1 scores are posted
 - Student awareness events included a recycling pledge board in the library, eco-games event, and recycled art contest
 - We came in 62/107 schools, only 3 slots behind UVA

- https://recyclesearch.com/profile/recyclemania/report/330?node_id=&competition_category=rmania_participate_grand_champ&group_by=rank&pds_kgs=lbs&generate=1
- Green Grads now open
 - Any students, graduate or undergraduate, can take a pledge (similar to humans of New York) and receive a free green cord to wear at graduation
 - <https://www.facebook.com/greengradsvt/>

Housing Sustainability Update (Gwyneth Manser)

- The Environmental Student Organization in partnership with EHS has expanded battery collection to residence halls Peddrew-Yates, Newman, and Ambler Johnston
 - Collection canisters are in mailrooms or common areas that are accessible to all students
 - Pick-up takes place once per month
- YMCA donation bins will be coming to residence halls
 - Will be able to accept clothing, school supplies, and small household goods, NO food

Sustainability Laboratory Expo (Rob Lowe)

- LabConnect's 15th Annual Virginia Tech Laboratory Exposition
Tuesday, April 3, 2018
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Lunch is provided
Location: The Inn at Virginia Tech
Expo Theme: Sustainability
Sponsored by VT Procurement and LabConnect (formerly LEPDN)
- Focused on building a culture of sustainability, presentations from My Green Lab and booths with over 40 lab service/equipment vendors

Environment Virginia Conference

- <https://conferences.vmi.edu/eva/>

Open Discussion

- Aidan asked if students can come to E&SC meetings? Yes, any student is allowed to attend as a guest. Official reps are given by number, so if a student wants to participate through an official channel like SGA or GSA, there are only 2 slots open per graduate and undergraduate.
- Next meeting - March 26th 2018
- Motion to adjourn: Sean McGinnis moved, Aidan Bergel second