

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes 3-26-2018

Attendees: Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton, Tamara Robinson for Jon Clark Teglas/Chris Kiwus, Jack Washington for Jason Soileau, Gwyneth Manser for Frances Keene, Denny Cochrane, Scott Kerklo, Jeff Orzolek, Rob Lowe, Virgilio Centeno, John Chermak for Edward Lener, Sean McGinnis, Luke Juran, Jeremy Smith

Guests: Karlee Siepierski

Motion to Approve Agenda: Sean McGinnis motion, Luke Juran second

Motion to Approve February Minutes: Scott Kerklo motion, Virgilio Centeno second

Old Business

STARS Submission

- Certified GOLD rating with score of 71.94
- Initial submission 12-19-17
- Second submission with reviews 3-1-18
- Represents highest score in VA & ACC
- Thank you to all committee members who provided input!
- Jeremy Smith question: Even though it is every three years, do you keep yearly updates so it's easier the next time around?
 - Denny answer: Yes. We are an AASHE member, so we can use the reporting tool each year for updates.
- STARS is primary feed for Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges and Sierra Club Cool Schools list
- Keep in mind versions and criteria change year to year, so it is often a learning process to submit updated data.

Policy 5505 - Jeff Orzolek Update

- Subcommittee met two weeks ago to take first look at what they want to do and identified key people and stakeholders that they want to meet with
- Planned timeline is to complete full review by 4th Monday in September 2018 (final product done)
- Last part of summer will consist of cleaning and polishing document
- Deliverables for upcoming meetings: review complete list of VT policies to see if there are any existing policies that should reference 5505, review policy 1000, review other documents referenced in 5505, look for 'low-hanging fruit' in terms of corrections to the current document
- Look at title of policy itself - does not mention sustainability
- Make sure we are looking at every section, including purpose

- Research other institutions that have similar policies to gain ideas on structure of document
- Education is a major area that is missing with 5505
- Sean McGinnis question: do we get credit in STARS just for having this policy?
 - Denny answer: Yes.
- Assessing any existing language that says 'encourage' is an opportunity to strengthen language and increase accountability
- Revisit comprehensive waste management policy, it has not been updated since we went single stream in 2015, needs to be updated

VT Lab Expo

- Tuesday 4/3 from 10am - 2pm @ The Inn
- Karlee will be hosting Office of Sustainability booth

New Business

Green RFP

- Budget office meeting took place on March 15th
- Angela Page, Brian Garber, Jeff Early, Kate Barbor, Wendell Vest, Stacy King all present
- Went through proposals one-by-one and each member went over materials beforehand
- 12 of 17 proposals will most likely move forward
- Pulled a few into category 2, some not pursuing, low on priority list
- Total amount of funding could be in excess of \$100,000
- Official results not yet announced, official memo from Dwight Shelton will hopefully be announced late April
- Looking to implement funding ASAP so carryover is not an issue
- We did get more savings numbers on Sean McGinnis' recommendation - thank you Sean!

Earth Week

- April 16 - 22
- Environmental Coalition, Office of Sustainability, Food Justice at VT, Dining Services, Students for Sustainable Practice, Environmental Student Org all hosting events
- Full schedule here: <https://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/earth-week.html>

Internship

- Applications open through 3/30
- Looking for 20 undergraduate students
- Time commitment 7 - 20 hours per week, working on projects and outreach

Green Grads

- Any student or faculty can fill out pledge to live sustainably after graduation
- <https://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/graduation-pledge.html>

Environment VA Conference

- April 3 - 5
- Great opportunity for students; very cheap registration & great networking
- Two VT groups up for Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

Open Discussion

- Jeremy Smith: He was announced SGA president for 2018-19 year running on a platform of 'Sustainability, Solidarity, and Service'. Many goals surrounding net zero emissions, moving away from single use items, paperless football tickets, supporting student sustainability initiatives, and student-led newsletter. Many ideas with opportunities for feedback and improvement.
- Jeremy Smith: SGA sent two resolutions to President Sands' desk regarding Mountain Valley Pipeline and Radford Arsenal, any help would be good from professors or administration
 - John Chermak response: data driven science is most important, we need to be very careful on what we do/don't support. It's always a good idea to go in with numbers to be taken seriously.
 - Luke Juran response: Emily Satterwhite is an Appalachian Studies professor. Was on NPR this morning, leading efforts on air quality testing with land-owners and private citizens in Radford, could get in touch with her on citizen science.
- Gwyneth Manser: will present on composting program at April meeting.
- Denny Cochrane: Recycling Rate Report is submitted to MRSWA at the end of this week
- John Chermak: April 19th his Geosciences students will host a poster session in Squires Old Dominion Ballroom from 9:30 - 10:40am & 11am - 12:15pm. Posters will analyze over 30 countries on issues related to energy, water, resources, and their environmental and social impacts.