

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

10/23/2017

Agenda Approval & Introductions

- New Committee Members & Guests
 - Luke Juran - Faculty Senate
 - Aidan Bergel - SGA
 - Jeremy Smith - SGA
 - Brian Squibb - CAUS building manager
- Approval of agenda: motion Mike Dunn, second Jeff Orzolek
- Approval of September minutes: motion Alexis Trent, second Rob Lowe

Old Business: Green RFP update

- 3 projects completed from 2016-17 RFP Program: Burruss tunnel LED lights, Dining Services OZZI container pilot, and water bottle refill stations in Major Williams Hall and Pamplin Hall
- 1 project underway & nearing completion from 2016-17 RFP cycle: Stroubles riparian restoration project fence has been installed, trees being ordered and will be planted on 11/18/17
- 2017-18 RFP Program timeline: Proposals due to Denny Cochrane on 11/10/17
- Office of Sustainability has met with many student organizations and classes to brief the Green RFP program including Environmental Coalition, Students for Sustainable Practice, SGA, academic classes, staff senate, and DSA town-gown meeting

New Business: STARS

- STARS was accepted in Sustainability Plan as primary model to measure effectiveness in 2014
- STARS is a voluntary, transparent, self-reporting system
- Measures following categories (point values):
 - Academics 58 points
 - Engagement 41 points
 - Operations 69 points
 - Planning & admin 32 points
 - Innovation bonus up to 4 points
- Scoring: Sum the points for the 4 categories & divide by 2 - to normalize on a 100 point scale. Then add innovation bonus points - 1 full point for each credit (max 4 points)
- Subcategories - operations is always the largest percentage and biggest category
 - Academics (29%)
 - Curriculum, research
 - Engagement (20%)
 - Campus engagement, public engagement
 - Operations (35%)

- Air & climate, buildings, energy, food & dining, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, water
 - Planning & Administration (16%)
 - Coordination & planning, diversity & affordability, investment & finance, well-being & work
- VT has participated in STARS and received three ratings since 2011. Earned gold in 2014 and rating is good for 3 years
- Currently reporting under version 2.1 submitting this fall
- STARS is a team effort, and we are all champions
- We hold the highest score in commonwealth, second highest in ACC
- Five year energy action plan link as requested by committee:
<https://www.facilities.vt.edu/energy-utilities/energy-reduction-efforts/five-year-energy-action-plan.html>
- Campus policy 5505 - number of purchasing outlines, will need to be updated soon
- New sustainability-focused purchasing policy concurrently with 5505 updates
- Question from Brian Squibb: Why do the STARS versions change? Capturing over time what participants and broader community think is fair, and changing input from participating university members
- VT is included in this year's Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges

New Business: Student Initiatives

- Events this semester: Turn Down for Watt, Turner Place Waste Audit, Green Tailgating, and Thrift Swap
- Question from Brian Squibb - Is there a better way for CAUS to dispose of studio waste? Karlee Siepierski to set up meeting with Brian for Architecture waste - paper, wood, and chemical to dispose of properly in studios

Open Discussion

- Question from Jeremy Smith: What does policy 5505 deal with?
 - "Campus energy, water, & waste reduction." Limited procurement items
 - Other items could be added such as computers
 - VPOPS Sherwood Wilson in the approval authority
- Question from Jeremy Smith: Are there any updates on bike share program?
 - Jeri Baker partnering with TOB, hub would be on campus, down to one vendor, launch next spring during spring break, a few bikes showcased during Feb & March, two main bike shops as locations as well
- Question from Aidan Bergel: Can they submit a Green RFP focused on continually supporting bike share program, such as fix-it stations? Yes
- Comment from Aidan Bergel: Greek life submitting RFP on Greeks Go Green, student named Tristan Jilson is spearheading

Next meeting 11/27 Monday after Thanksgiving