

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2010

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Board Room - Burruss Hall

Present: Michael Coleman – Chair, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Rachael Budowle for Rick Johnson, Bruce Ferguson, Ben Myers, Madeline Schreiber, Annie Pearce, John Randolph, Tom Tucker, Mike Cutlip, Jack Davis, Sara Murrill, Spencer Riddile, Alex Funk, Elena Dulys-Nusbaum, Sandra Mullins (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Rob Lowe, Mintai Kim, Sherwood Wilson

Guests: Angella De Soto, David Gibbs, Richard Hirsh, Kaitlyn Loh, Jim McCoy, Lyndsay McKeever, Fred Selby, David St Jean, Sarah Surak, Kevin Bishop (IT Support)

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Mike Coleman called the Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda.

Approval of the November 30, 2009 Minutes

The November 30, 2009 Minutes were approved by the Committee.

Announcement

- 1) Jack Davis informed the Committee that the Virginia Tech Lumenhaus, the solar-powered house designed, constructed, and operated by students and faculty for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, will be moved to Times Square in New York City for display January 27-31, 2010. It will be featured on ABC's Good Morning America on January 28. The Lumenhaus has been invited to compete in the first European Solar Decathlon to be held in Madrid, Spain in June 2010. Virginia Tech was one of two schools selected to compete from the United States.
- 2) Mike Coleman introduced Fred Selby, the new Campus Energy Manager, who will be working in the Office of Sustainability to promote energy cost savings and sustainability.

Old Business

1) Student Sustainability Initiatives

Undergraduate student, Alex Funk, gave an overview of initiatives the students are doing to promote campus sustainability and the projects underway on campus. There are 17 student organizations on campus dealing with sustainability issues. Some of their activities are:

- Water Bottle Legislation
- Student Farm, Promotion of Local Foods
- Environmental Education

- *Ytoss?* 2010
- Green Fund Campaign
- Home Game Recycling
- Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation
- Earth and Sustainability Weeks
- Transportation Issues
- Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Events and Opportunities

The students are competing in RecycleMania 2010, a college and university recycling program to promote waste reduction activities.

The students are also participating in Virginia Tech Eco-Olympics, a Residence Hall competition which is focusing on energy consumption, education, and impact reduction. This is the first time the students have had a Residence Hall competition. The students will participate in Earth Hour on March 27 which is a world-wide event to turn off lights for an hour from 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

2) Green Campus Challenge Update

John Randolph commented that Virginia Tech placed third among the state agencies and institutions in the Green Commonwealth Challenge, thus earning eight hours of recognition leave to be taken between January 25, 2010 and January 9, 2011. In the Green Commonwealth Challenge submission it was stated that the university would develop its own Green Campus Challenge. John Randolph presented the current draft Green Campus Challenge survey to the Committee for discussion. He will make recommended changes and send the survey out for additional feedback. The goal is to distribute the survey in the next several weeks.

3) Review Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505

Denny Cochrane informed the Committee that Policy 5505 has been revised to incorporate all the changes agreed upon. A motion was made and seconded to vote electronically to recommend approval of revision two to Policy 5505.

New Business

1) Open Discussion

There was no further open discussion.

Future Meetings

The next scheduled meeting dates for Academic Year 2009-2010 are as follows and will be held from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall:

February 22, 2010

March 29, 2010

April 26, 2010

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.