

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 29, 2014
Room 325, Burruss Hall

MEMBERS:

Members Present: Kayla Smith (for Sherwood Wilson), Chris Kiwus, Rial Tombes (for Frances Keene), Denny Cochrane, Ruben Avagyan, Steve Mouras, Rob Lowe, Sean McGinnis, John Chermak, Tim Baird, Bruce Obenhaus, Devita Mccullough, Sarah Mazza.

Members Absent: Dwight Shelton, Jason Soileau, Ashley Folcik, David Mellichamp, Richard Benson, Josh Barniak.

Recorder: Emily Schosid.

Guests: Stephanie Smith, Joe Jajonie, Emily Schosid.

1. Welcome & Introductions E&S Committee Members; Review Charge

Mr. Mouras called the meeting to order at 2:03PM; all members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Mr. Mouras asked for changes to the agenda, and receiving none, the agenda was approved.

3. Presentation on 2014 Annual Sustainability Report to BOV

Mr. Mouras gave the same presentation that was given to the Board of Visitors during their September meeting. He described the Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan, why sustainability is important to Virginia Tech, STARS and where VT is in its current submission, LEED and what buildings have been certified, and programs and events being run through the Office of Energy and Sustainability.

4. Old Business

a. VT Sustainability Plan; Approval: Steve Mouras

Mr. Mouras called to the committee's attention the revision of the Sustainability Plan. He said that the 19-page document was sent via email for review and approval. He described the structure of the update and how the Sustainability Plan was converted from a 200-page document to what it is in its current form. He described a bit about how the old Sustainability Plan was matched up with the STARS program and what VT Specific items we are pursuing in addition to the items on STARS. Finally, Mr. Mouras went over the approval process: there will be two readings, with this meeting being the first, and the second reading and vote coming in October. Mr. Mouras asked Ms. K. Smith what the next step would be, and she said that the document would get reviewed and approved by the Commission on University Support. At this time, she does not think the document will have to go any further, but the Commission will make that decision when they review the document. Ms. Smith also encouraged the committee members to share with their constituents for review.

b. Green Office Certification; Update: Emily Schosid

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Schosid gave a brief overview of the Green Office program and announced the launch date of October 20. Mr. Mouras added that the program is the Office of Energy and Sustainability's effort to do outreach with the faculty, staff, and graduate students. Mr. Baird asked if OES had considered doing a competition to encourage engagement and spark more participation. Mr. Chermak mentioned that it would be difficult to do a competition because the offices are self-identified. The sub-committee had worried that the competition would be comparing apples to oranges. Mr. Baird suggested that a per-capita scoring system might fix most of those programs. Mr. Mouras concluded that OES is always looking for good ideas to get the programs out there and increasing participation.

c. 2013-2014 (old) Green RFP; Status: Denny Cochrane

Mr. Cochrane gave a brief overview of the history of the Green RFP Program and the process by which the proposals are submitted and approved. He then gave a brief report on the 5 proposals that were approved and funded in the 2013-14 academic year.

5. New Business

a. STARS 1.2 Resubmission; Going for GOLD: Denny Cochrane

Mr. Cochrane gave a brief overview of the 2013 STARS submission and score. He talked about the structure of the program and what categories the credits fall into, and how each credit is structured. He emphasized the fact the report is public, and that each credit has a responsible party listed. Mr. Cochrane then gave a summary of what tasks are still left to complete our 2014 submission. He emphasized that STARS is the best way to track a school's sustainability program and how it compares to other schools in the US. Ms. Tombes asked how long it takes to get the official score once you hit the submit button. Mr. Cochrane explained that the score is immediate because the program is scored against a standard. Mr. Avagyan asked whether we would have to go to version 2.0, and Mr. Cochrane confirmed that on 20 October everyone's data would be converted to version 2.0, but that our score would stay the same in version 1.2.

b. 2014-2015 (new) Green RFP; Assign a Sub-committee: Denny Cochrane

Mr. Cochrane distributed the new memo that describes the information needed on the new Green RFP application, the timeline for submission and approval, and asked people to agree to be on a sub-committee to review the applications. Mr. Cochrane will chair the sub-committee, Mr. Lowe will be the staff member representative. Bruce volunteered to be the faculty representative and Ms. Mazza agreed to be the student representative. Ms. McCullough also volunteered to participate.

c. Sustainability Week; Wrap-up report: Emily Schosid

Ms. Schosid did a brief overview of the events and highlights from Sustainability Week 2014. Mr. Chermak asked for some more details on the GMO OMG film screening. He asked if there was a faculty member who focused on GMOs present to ask questions. Ms. Schosid said that it was a format that the planning committee considered, but abandoned. Mr. Mouras said that this might make a good format for the Earth Week events and future Sustainability Week events.

d. Green Tailgating: Update: Stephanie Smith

Ms. S. Smith did a brief description of the Tailgate Recycling program in the 5 parking lots closest to Lane Stadium. She emphasized that the program is self-service, and very simple. Mr. Kiwus asked what

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

OES did to tell people about the program. He emphasized that he would definitely like to participate, but he did not know that the program existed when he was tailgating. Mr. Mouras said that a message went through the Athletics Department, a news release went out, and social media went out about the program. [Student] asked whether the program was considered a success and whether the program would be expanded to the other parking lots. He said that there were lots of places that students would want to participate as well. Mr. Mouras said that at the end of the season OES would ask how the recycling this season compared to seasons in the past. Mr. Chermak mentioned that he knew a lot of people in lots 1-5 that already do a lot of recycling, but who didn't know about the new program. He asked that the success of the program should be measured against how much more recycling was collected in addition to the individual efforts in the parking lots, rather than how much raw material was collected just at the recycling zones. Ms. Mazza asked if any information had been included in the parking pass materials sent to tailgaters over the summer. Mr. Mouras said that OES had tried to do that, but the details hadn't been finalized soon enough.

e. Open Discussion; Goal(s) for this Year: Steve Mouras

Mr. Mouras discussed potential topics that might come up in the October meeting. Mr. Kiwus commented how the committee covered the topic of sustainability well, but reminded the group to keep thinking about the energy part of the committee's name. He reminded the committee that Mr. Avagyan (new VT Energy Manager) is here and ready to do some good work with creating more efficient energy systems on campus.

Next Meeting; October 27, 2014 - Room 325, Burruss Hall

Adjourned at 3: 08PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Schosid