

USF Student Green Energy Fund Council



Friday, May 19, 2017 – SVC 1073

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Council Members (In alphabetical order)

Chauncie Bigler (Alternate), Benjamin Carr, Sujit Chemburkar, Nadeem Freajah, Kebreab Ghebremichael, Sara Hendricks (Alternate), Aladdin Hiba, Nainan Desai, Robin Rives, and Harold Bower (Chair)

Absent: Barbara Bushnell, Travis Malott, George Philippidis, Lauren Reilly, and Raymond Mensah

Observer(s): Melody Rainey and Gidi Hendrix (Observers)

First Order of Business:

Previous month meeting minutes approved.

Financial Update:

Uncommitted funds have not posted to cash which means we cannot award the funds. There are several completed projects that have outstanding invoices. Once those invoices have been finalized the funds will be returned to the SGEF. Although not finalized, the amount expected to return to the fund is around \$32,000. The exact amount returned to the SGEF will be announced. No additional funds are available for allocation to projects until next fiscal year. Funding will be allocated to new proposals in the queue after the 2017/18 budget becomes available on July 1, 2017.

Public Comment

Sam Szatyari introduced herself. She will be taking on the Carbon Offset project for Lauren Reilly.

Aladdin Hiba presented the Senate Resolution. A portion was addressed to the SGEF Council. (Attached)

Discussion

- **Review & Recommendation Representative Task Force**

Collaboration with other sustainability responsibility centers on campus and how to coordinate this effort was the next topic. The chair requested for the council to let him know in the next month if anyone on the council would like to be involved in this effort or if they know anyone (student or staff) not connected with SGEF that has sustainability experience. The chair requested that information to be sent to him so he can coordinate with those individuals. This person would form the group on our behalf to consider how SGEF will better connect with these groups and

maintain communications focused on Tampa campus. In other words, a task group would be formed.

- **SGEF Charter, Activities, and Campus Partners**

What changes would the council like to see on the charter? The council asked if there were any current changes to the charter that have been submitted. Council member Aladdin Hiba said there is a current draft that he will provide. The bylaws have also been shortened.

New Business:

- **Carbon Offset Resolution – Neutralize Bull Gas**

The resolution to the Carbon Offset is a voluntary \$5 donation that students can choose when they purchase their parking passes starting in Fall 2017/2018. The SGEF would vote what the funds will be allocated to and where the carbon offset donation would go towards.

The council asked if the numbers on the carbon offset is correct since it varies year to year. The estimate for this percentage was calculated using the most recent STARS data from the commuter report section. The council asked if the offset purchased could be used towards transportation offsets. The funds could be used for anything, however the presenter would like if it could be used for something tangible that the students can see. The chair suggested endorsing the opportunity to contribute towards the funds without defining exactly how it would be used and just remain as is. The council pointed out that it may need to be used towards whatever may be available in the market at the time.

Before the sale of parking passes, there will be a web page set up to explain their donation. The council asked who would manage the funds collected. Since the funds are considered donations the best practice would be for the funds to go to Foundation. An established foundation fund has already been set up for SGEF since the SGEF cannot accept revenue other than the fees. A separate Foundation fund may need to be set up specifically for this purpose.

The council asked who would come up with the list of offset entities that will be invested in. The chair brought up the need to think long term so that it could be initiated with future projects in the coming years. Carbon offsets have a huge benefit for a lower cost, which make them essential. One council member suggested investing in the forestation on campus.

The council expressed their full support for the resolution. The revised resolution was emailed to the council for review and vote. The attached resolution was voted and approved.

Activities Updates

- **BSF LED Lights Final Project Update**

The project is being completed.

- **Campus Rec Tennis & Basketball LED Lights Project Update**

An ITN was put out for the project and proposals have been received. A committee will be meeting the following week to review the proposals to decide who the contract will be awarded to. They expect the project to be completed by the end of 2017 summer before classes begin.

- **Renew-A-Bull Biodiesel PH2 Project Update**

Dr. Sunol presented a slide presentation which is attached.

The council asked if USF will get any patents or royalties from the project. There is patent applications currently in place. The royalties are typically split with the University and the inventors. There is a possibility to enhance the royalties that will go to separate enterprises, but those enterprises may pay the university. These enterprises are being looked at and the university is aware of this. Patents aren't as easy on this project.

The chair asked if December 2018 is a reasonable completion date for this phase of the project. This project should be complete by then if not before.

The council asked if the biodiesel is ready to use for the Bull Runner. The Bull Runner uses 15% biodiesel, as long as the biodiesel is up to speck the university will not need to purchase from outside sources.

A second question was if the collected waste oil is from restaurant kitchens, which it mostly is. It was suggested that maybe the county would work out a deal with them so that they can collect the grease needed since they are looking for ways to clean up the water system.

Another council member asked if the biodiesel would be available for students to purchase for their vehicles. This could be a study as an expansion to this project.

Biodiesel creates a byproduct glycerin which can be used to make soap. The liquid soap can be used in the dormitories and novelty soap can be sold in the bookstore.

Announcements

- **SVC 1073 Permanent Location?**

The chair asked the council if SVC 1073 was a convenient location for everyone. The council agreed.

- **Board of Trustees Finance Committee**

The Board of Governors Regulation who created the Green Fee requires that the Board of Trustees review that the fee is being used appropriately and that it is meeting the goals and objectives of the fee as established. The SGEF chair passed out to the SGEF council part of the slide presentation from the BOT meeting (attached). The presentation lists all of the projects funded by the SGEF since the fee was established. Included in the presentation is the awarded amounts, the completed projects, and the projects in process. The fee has generated almost \$6.3 million since its inception to be awarded towards projects. The remaining \$132,000 funds are already committed to existing projects. A new budget will be established in the new fiscal year.

The two referendums from 2014 and 2017 was also reported to the BOT because they wanted to see the student votes. In 2014, 69% voted yes however, only 4,800 out of 38,000 eligible students voted. In 2017 the yes vote was 66%, a 3% decrease. However, the number of students who voted increased to 8,300 which was a 70% increase.

- **SGEF Revolving Funds**

The council may want to consider splitting cost savings 50/50 with the departments as an incentive. Research of what options are available to the council would need to be the first step. The chair suggested that this could be an SGEF project.

| **Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.**