USF Student Green Energy Fund Council

Friday, June 16, 2017 – SVC 1073
Time: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Council Members (In alphabetical order)

Benjamin Carr, Nadeem Freajah, Kebreab Ghebremichael, Sara Hendricks (Alternate), Aladdin Hiba, Lauren Monti, and Harold Bower (Chair)

Absent: Chauncie Bigler (Alternate), Nainan Desai, Barbara Bushnell, Sujit Chemburkar, Robin Rives, Travis Malott, George Philippidis, and Raymond Mensah

Observer(s): Gidi Hendrix (Observers)

First Order of Business:

Previous month meeting minutes were approved by email.

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

None.

Discussion

- **Sustainable Transportation Presentation by CUTR**
  (See attached presentation)
  The Director of the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research, (CUTR), Dr. Robert Bertini and Allison Yeh of the Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization shared information about plans to develop a Campus Transportation Test Lab for innovations relating to sustainable transportation. Dr. Bertini presented the potential project involving autonomous vehicles here on campus.

The council asked if there is a planned route. Currently the project is working on finding what type of services they would like to provide and based on their studies the route will be selected. The project would likely be presented in a year.

- **SGEF Rubric/Rating System Discussion**
  The council discussed ideas on how to fund projects since the funds have been exhausted. One idea is to have alternating meetings; one meeting to discuss the various project summaries and the next meeting to fund the projects decided upon. Minimizing the meetings to allocate funding and setting a cap on funds allotted per semester will help fund potentially better projects. Another discussion was to have allocations on projects quarterly so that there will be more time to review and discuss projects. The concern is that money may be exhausted quickly on projects that come in at the beginning of the year and later projects would have to wait, which presents a problem with some students since they may graduate before the project begins. The chair suggested a proposal for the rubric to be done since the bylaws are also currently being created. Another discussion was that before a project is approved, a condition would be made that a portion of the cost savings of the project would come back to the SGEF. The number favored would be 50% of the cost savings.

  There was conversation to only have bylaws and a slim charter or to only have bylaws. The chair also suggested perhaps having a preamble and then the bylaws. The bylaws should stay consistent with the current charter.

  To clarify on proposal selection, the proposer and the council would have deadlines on the workflow. Another suggestion was that the council submit questions to the proposer via email communication to expedite the process during the council meetings.

New Business:

The council decided to proceed with the next agenda items although there was not enough quorum to vote on the projects. The summaries were emailed and voted on through email.

- **HVAC iBar Technology Project Summary**
  Outdoor air introduced in the space requires heating and cooling continuously to remove humidity from the air. This project proposes to provide building code required outdoor air through introduction of ionization technology. Building interiors emit VOC (volatile organic compounds) which are harmful to health. To sufficiently dilute VOC's for the air to be safe ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-conditioning Engineers) has established standards of outdoor quality. The project will be implemented through normal USF construction process of project management which includes, design, bidding, permitting, and installation. The expected time frame for the project of all 10 air handling units is 9 months as it requires shutting down air handling units. The shutting down of air handling units can be done only during periods of low or no occupancy.

In collaboration with the Environmental Health and Safety, Facility Management, and Building Code Official a pilot project of Ionization (iBar) technology was applied to the sixth floor of USF library HVAC units (2) to reduce VOC's which in turn permitted reduction in outdoor air per Florida Building code. This in turn reduces the carbon foot print, cooling and heating loads, and the energy cost. The USF Library is a seven story building served by 12 air handling units. The sixth floor has 34,342 gross square feet served by two air handling units. These two air handling units were retrofitted with iBar technology with data logging for before and after, and for VOC's and CO2. The results successfully demonstrated a reduction in carbon foot print through use of iBar technology.

The installation of iBar technology is expected to reduce the carbon foot print by 46 eMT through the reduction of 60,462 kWh of electricity, and 661 therms of natural gas, resulting in annual savings of $51,670. In addition to the above, iBar technology also keeps the cooling coil clean. It improves indoor air quality for the building occupants by reducing VOCs, odors, destroying bacteria and virus, and better filtration. Indoor air quality is important because students spend several hours studying indoors. Additionally, there is a benefit expected from Innovation Credits in the next STARS report. iBar technology also helps in controlling static electricity.

The project is requesting $68,990 with Facilities Management in agreement to maintain the project equipment.

Council agreed to let the project summary move forward to proposal.

- **Tree Planting PH2 Budget Amendment Proposal**

  The Phase II Planting Trees to Reduce Cooling Loads on Campus Project is part of an ongoing initiative to plant more trees on campus in order to provide greenhouse gas reduction for the university; to provide shade, convenience, and heat reduction for all those who walk on USF's campus and to allow for an educational opportunity for students on campus regarding the SGEF and the benefits of tree planting. The original project proposal brought to the Council at the March 24, 2017 meeting, called for a budget of $74,800 to allow for the planting of 69 new trees on campus. However, to allow for all of the five projects proposed at that meeting to receive adequate funding in order to be passed, the budget of this project was cut in half and allotted $39,644, which only allows for the planting of approximately 38 trees.

  Phase I of this project, Tree Planting in Commemoration of Arbor Day to Reduce Cooling Loads on Campus, was recently completed and had a surplus in its budget of $11,000. These funds were returned to the SGEF auxiliary account last week and is now available to be requested. The request is for the $11,000 to be added to the budget of Phase II Tree Planting to Reduce Cooling Loads on Campus. This would allow for the use of the leftover funding from Phase I, money that was allotted specifically for planting trees on campus, to be transferred into Phase II and continue

the initiative to increase USF's tree cover. A budget increase of $11,000 would allow for the planting of 11 additional trees, with a total of 49 trees planted through this project.

The GHG reduction benefits of this project are immediate and long term, with the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of the USF Tampa campus. At the age of 40 years, each tree from this project has the potential to sequester 1 ton of CO2. One mature tree (average tree planted) can absorb approximately 911 lbs. of CO2 per year. 49 trees can absorb 44,639 lbs. of CO2 per year. The oxygen that the trees produce is another result - each mature tree is able to give 260 lbs. of O2 per year, or 12,740 lbs. of O2 per 49 trees per year.

Council voted and approved the proposal.

Activities Updates

- **Roadway and Parking LED Project Update**
  The purchasing department is currently reviewing the proposals.

- **Thermal Energy Storage System Project Update**
  (See attached presentation)
  Since the project is small, the companies are not prioritizing quotes for the project. The PI requested a 6 month extension which was granted.

- **Reducing CO2 Emissions w/Algae – Date Extension thru 12/31/2017**
  The council was made aware that this project requested an extension through 12/31/2017.

- **REC Donation Opportunity Update**
  The chair discussed the types of funds available to the SGEF. The original Green Fee auxiliary fund cannot be comingled with other funds and only receives statutory fees. A second auxiliary fund will need to be established to receive back funds from entities that reduce their budget through a SGEF project. However, the funds could be spent on projects chosen by the council. A Foundation fund with unrestricted gifts has been in place and is available to be used for any agreeable purpose by the council although not much has been contributed. Another Foundation fund will be established for contributions being made from parking purchases. The only purpose of the fund would be to buy credits to reduce carbon footprint.

Announcements

- **Tabling for WOW**
  The SGEF will be tabling on August 22nd and August 23rd for Week of Welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.