

Student Environmental Initiatives Committee Agenda

February 3rd, 2021, 12-1pm

Attendance: Cassie Austin, Jay Price, Mary Beth Robbins, Dan Smith, Rachel Stewart, Holly Jones, James Newburn, Terry Ledford, Madeline Ginsberg, Alex Scarce, William Botts, Maryn Miles, William Miller, Rachel Manning, Amber Heeke, Michael McKinney, Simon Jolly, Tyler Corum

Updates:

Welcome to the Committee and Introductions

Charter & Meeting Specifics

Budget Overview- Terry Ledford

Proposals:

- Conference - Rachel Stewart
 - Approved

- Alt Fuel Vehicle Assistance - Holly Jones
 - Approved under Alt Fuel Vehicle Assistance
 - Q: Should the entire vehicle cost be funded or just supplement for electric?
 - Q: Could it be charged with solar instead of just electric?
 - Q: Is this separate line item or alternate vehicle fund?
 - Q: Define alternate vehicle fund?

- Generation of Bi-Polar Ions in HVAC Recirculation Air Systems - Dr. William Miller
 - Approved under Design and Research

- AmeriCorps Members for Office of Sustainability- Jay Price
 - Approved for \$80,000 for the next year's members

- Solar Array Landscape Trailer - Matt Layne
 - TABLED - do not vote on this yet (Terry)

Email Notes

- Net Impact Community Engagement Event - Victoria Freeland
 - (Maryn) Why is the 1st place prize so high?
 - (Alex) I want to support this initiative but also am curious about why the first place prize is so high. My second question is about chapter dues. I think supporting chapter dues for the first semester makes sense, but we are already in February and behind on the project timeline. It seems like a re-evaluation of the timeline may allow this event to be more successful, and am wondering if starting this

next semester would be a better use of the money/if providing the money now would be effective. Also curious about what chapter dues would go towards.

- Clarence Brown Theatre sustainable masking velour replacement - Jason Fogarty
 - (Dan) What would the standard fabric be made of? While the use of recycled materials is a positive thing, I'm curious as to how "eco-unfriendly" the base product is to justify a nearly 5x cost increase.
 - IFR vs FR, The primary difference between FR and IFR is the method in which a fabric is made flame retardant. Either it is made flame retardant in the fiber stage (IFR) or it is made flame retardant after weaving (FR). An argument can be made that FR treated fabrics create higher VOC numbers in spaces. ReVive is listed as an IFR velour.
 - The quality and durability of this fabric will long out last that of a standard or baseline duvetyn or velour. Our last purchase was in 2005 and the fabric was almost disintegrating when we pulled it off the frames.
 - Information from Rose Brand:
 - It is good for the Planet.
 - The fibers used in ReVive (70% used in 15oz ReVive; 80% used in 22oz ReVive) are manufactured from plastic water bottles which are diverted from landfills and the waterways. A typical 20x40 Stage Curtain can reclaim more than 1000 bottles. If just 10% of Rose Brand customers specified ReVive, this would amount to 1,000,000 bottles saved from polluting our ecosystem.
 - It is good for You.
 - ReVive has achieved GreenGuard Gold certification from UL for contributing to improved indoor air quality, minimizing the VOC off-gassing common in many building products. Clean air for you and your audience.
 - It is good for your Stakeholders
 - The environmental benefits from specifying ReVive make your building eligible for LEEDS certification. LEEDS status can be a powerful marketing tool to entice donors and secure grants and funding. LEED credits may be earned in the following categories: Recycled Content, Regional Materials, Low-emitting materials.
 - Additional article: <http://www.millikenspecialtyinteriors.com/c0/revive/>
 - The standard or baseline fabric is often listed as cotton or polyester. It is unclear from the manufacturer whether or not the cotton is organically grown or regular.
 - The cost increase of nearly 5% came from me listing a baseline duvetyn fabric choice. In actuality we would probably be purchasing a midrange velour choice so the increase would not be as substantial. In my haste to deliver information in a timely manner I chose to compare opposites in the spectrum of theatrical

masking fabric choices. In hind sight I hope that this doesn't come off as misleading. Below is a cost break down with the addition of a midrange velour.

- Baseline duvetyn cost = \$904.59
- Midrange velour cost=\$ 268.86.55
- ReVive velour cost= \$4693.86

- Solar Table Retrofit - Kathryn White
 - (Maryn) This seems like a lot of money for something that won't be that impactful. The tables themselves will not cut energy costs or emissions considerably in any way. They seem like they'd only be for looks and reputation. I think if we wanted to purchase solar energy for looks and educational benefits there are better investments. I could also see the university potentially having a branding or architectural problem with a different brand of tables because of the uniform look they are striving for with building renovations.
 - (Dan) Maryn is absolutely correct in thinking that these tables will run into opposition for architectural/aesthetic reasons. The new tables would need to be approved by the Campus Planning and Design Committee before any could be installed. Based on my experience with the CPDC, I would expect getting CPDC approval is incredibly unlikely.

- ReCollect Recycling Game - Cassie Austin
 - 4 yes (Alex & Madeline), 2 no (Maryn & Dan)
 - Approved
 - (Maryn) I don't think the cost is in correlation with the amount of students who will be playing the game. I also think one of the only ways to get a mass amount of students to participate would be to provide the game to professors and encourage incorporation into their curriculum, or have RAs encourage students to play the game. Therefore I do not think this form of education could reach a large number of students without being seen as a chore and/or not taken seriously. Also purchasing a game for a 1-year pilot but having no Americorps members with us next school year to carry this through is concerning.

- Electric Mower - Matt Layne
 - (Maryn) Need clarification on the number of mowers being replaced
 - Asking for funding for one mower plus the extra batteries for it. This would mean a \$26,000 investment from the Green Fee.

Student Environmental Initiatives Committee Agenda

March 3rd, 2021, 12-1pm

Attendance: Jay Price, Cassie Austin, Jordan Smith, Simon Jolly, Mary Beth Robbins, Terry Ledford, Madeline Ginsberg, Jason Fogarty, Dan Smith, Rachel Manning, Mike McKinney, Alex Scearce, Matt Layne

Updates:

- ReCollect Recycling Game Proposal - Cassie Austin
 - Approved over email vote, 4 yes to 2 no
 - Ready to purchase before oversight

Proposals:

- Clarence Brown Theatre sustainable masking velour replacement - Jason Fogarty
 - Updated proposal available
 - \$4693.86 - \$2688.55 = \$2005
 - Approved
 - Email Questions:
 - (Dan) What would the standard fabric be made of? While the use of recycled materials is a positive thing, I'm curious as to how "eco-unfriendly" the base product is to justify a nearly 5x cost increase.
- Solar Table Retrofit - Julia Craven & Cassie Austin
 - Updates: No official response on this but proposal has been updated with guidance from Facilities Design to identify places where additional tables could be placed on campus.
 - (Dan) Funding 3 tables a year for 5 years
 - \$22,500 per year
 - Areas with high traffic
 - Conduct surveys to determine how many students are using and feedback on project
 - Approved
 - Email Questions/Concerns:
 - (Maryn) This seems like a lot of money for something that won't be that impactful. The tables themselves will not cut energy costs or emissions considerably in any way. They seem like they'd only be for looks and reputation. I think if we wanted to purchase solar energy for looks and educational benefits there are better investments. I could also see the university potentially having a branding or architectural problem with a different brand of tables because of the uniform look they are striving for with building renovations.
 - (Dan) Maryn is absolutely correct in thinking that these tables will run into opposition for architectural/aesthetic reasons. The new tables would need to be approved by the Campus Planning and Design Committee before any could be installed. Based on my experience with the CPDC, I would expect getting CPDC approval is incredibly unlikely.
- Electric Mower - Matt Layne
 - Updates: Asking for funding for one mower plus the extra batteries for it. This would mean a \$26,000 investment from the Green Fee.
 - Calculate emissions reductions.

- Split the cost half and half with facilities and green fee.
 - New cost proposal = \$17,500
 - Approved
- Email Question:
 - (Maryn) Need clarification on the number of mowers being replaced
- Student Workers for the Office of Sustainability - Jay Price
 - \$80,000 approved