Student Environmental Initiatives Committee Agenda/Minutes
July 2nd, 2021, 1-2:30pm

Welcome to Committee:

- Introductions
- Charter Review: https://sustainability.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2019/12/StudentEnvironmentalInitiatives_Charter_2014.pdf
- Guidelines Review: https://sustainability.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2020/01/StudentEnvironmentalInitiatives_Guidelines_2013.pdf

Updates:

- Budget update- Terry Ledford ~$1.6M balance

Attendance/Roll-Call: (Members present highlighted in yellow)
Voting Student Members: Madeline Ginsberg, Simon Jolly, Mary Beth Robbins, Rachel Stewart
Voting Faculty/Staff Members: Nicole Jones, Andrea Ludwig, Mike McKinney
Alternate (non-voting) Student Members: Ellen Bobo, Lauryn Johnson
Ex Officio (alternates for Faculty/Staff) Members: Lamar Bryant, Terry Ledford
Chair (non-voting): Jay Price

Proposals:

- Food4All Zero Waste Initiative - Tyler White -
    - Questions and discussion centered around the material of the containers. Plastic was best option for weight, durability, visibility while preventing injury to hands.
    - Committee Approved proposal unanimously at $11,263.60, as proposed in original document.
- Third Creek Enhancement Project: Addition of Floating Treatment Wetlands
    - Questions and discussion on durability of the material from the commercially produced wetlands and micro/macro plastics, as well as the legality of placement there with respect to Stormwater permitting etc. Garrett Ferry (Stormwater Coordinator) has been involved with the other project where these were deployed in 3rd Creek. The durability is improved by plant/algae growth encapsulating the plastic
    - Committee unanimously approved $30,000, contingent upon a further review of the regulatory requirements from TDEC.
- Glass Recycling Study

    - Questions on where glass would come from, whether the printer was ready to accept recycled glass, as well as dust and ventilation needs. Glass will come from City of Knoxville drop-off centers or other sources, not the UT Public Recycling Drop-Off. The printer has been tested and glass works with it, just not fully ready yet, with timeline provided in the proposal. Manufacturer said dust isn't an issue. Review by Environmental Health and Safety requested before moving forward, suggested a not-to-exceed approach so as to enable dust capture or ventilation to be added if deemed necessary.
    - Committee unanimously approved at a not-to-exceed amount of $25,000 after review by Environmental Health and Safety.
- Community Solar Investment with KUB
    - Tabled for email or other discussion

If time permits (Time did not permit):
Proposed SEIC Guidelines 2019 review:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BCX-JUkaAH_xvQwRaG_7_xvgI0wIe73oopmFYW8QJLk/edit

Green Fee Meeting

9/17/2021

Attendance: Terry Leford, Andrea Lorene Ludwig, Jose Tunnell, Jay Price, Marshall Prado, Jessica GerberDolan,
Voting members: Lauryn Johnson (Alt), Mary Beth (Alt), Ellen Bobo(Alt), Rachel Stewart (Alt), Simon Jolly (Student), Madeline Ginsberg (Student), Micheal McKinny (staff), Nicole Jones (staff)

Notes:
Recap of previous meeting of this FY

- $7,812 spent for reusable containers for dining commons to put food for the big orange pantry

ASSHE - Jay Price

- Go with sponsorship
- It is a contract
- 200 attendees for $4500 or unlimited for $5500
- Three people for unlimited rather than limited
- Rachel suggest streaming parties
- Micheal motioned for unlimited, andrea seconds the motion

- 7 votes to pass it, meaning it passes

AmeriCorps - Jay Price
- Funding for AmeriCorps for the next three years
- Total expected cost $94,500 per year for 7 AmeriCorps members
- MIcheal makes a motion to fund it, Andrea seconds it
- 7 votes to pass it, meaning it passes

SPEAK Garden Project - Josie Tunnell
- Expand the current garden next to the culinary institute
- Make it more of an annually returning garden, less maintenance
- Working with Tyler White, takes the produce and turns it into meals and goes to food pantries along with directly to food pantries on campus
- Total expected cost $1,500
- Current equipment is outdated
- Currently storing equipment in back corner, would like tub or shed (in the budget) ● Micheal makes amontion to fund that, Andrea seconded it
- 7 votes to pass it, meaning it passes

FabLab - Marshall Prado, Assistant Professor of Design and Structural Technology ● Proposal is for additional equipment in the fablab, it will enable the back end to do more things
- The hope is to test out different sorts of plastics
- Also move into post-consumer plastics
- Take waste plastic and turn it into production
- Total expected cost $30,000
- 15% of current plastic is wasted, a large form of waste is plastic that is exposed to air and humidity
- Who can use this product- anybody who is taking a design course, all students in the college and those outside the college taking a class
- Extra material can go to the engineering fablab or other city fablabs
- A motion to fund this by Michael, seconded in Mary Beth
- 7 votes to pass it, meaning it passes

11/13/2021

Attendants: Simon, Madeline, Mary Beth, Lauryn, Andrea, Micheal, Terry, Jay
- Proposals-
    - Optimal Solar Table Installations (Solar Pathfinder)- Julia Craven
        - Vote for this: 7 yes, 0 no = proposal passes
    - TN Smart Yard AmeriCorps member support- Andrea Ludwig
        - Vote for this: 5 yes, 0 no = proposal passes
    - Bicycle Friendly University- Bicycle Advisory Committee- Amythest Devlin
        - $20,000 possibility

        - Vote for this: tabled
- Budget Update
    - $ 867,666 in the funds added this year to green fee
    - ~ 3.4 million, 1.4 for future projects
    - Green fee ~ 1.4 million
    - Projects not required to have a direct payback
- $165,000/year in energy savings
- Green Revolving Fund
    - Mainly focus on lighting so far
    - Return cost of project plus 5 years of savings back into the fund
- Other line items (ex: Alternative Transportation, student design and research, bottle refill stations)
    - This eliminates needing to go to the oversight committee
- How to get more proposals
    - How to spread the word?
    - Have a simple submission form for ideas
        - Graduate programs - link for funding- lots of different things, (not just
            - Graduate Student Senate Thurs 11/18 meeting (send something to Mary Beth) https://gradschool.utk.edu/graduate-student-life/costs-funding/
            -
        - Sustainable Landscape Design (or others) for Design Competition
        - (One idea was revamping A&A patio with greenspace)
        - Streamlined approach to propose projects- create simple submission form in conjunction what longer one- use interns to help flesh out proposals
            - An “idea form” to spark interest to take on a project

12/10/2021

Attendees:
Voting Members: Nicole Jones, Mike McKinney, Rachel Stewart, Lauryn Johnson, Ellen Bobo, Simon Jolly, Madeline Ginsberg (by previously emailed proxy vote)
Other attendees: Jay Price (Chair), Jess GerberDolan, Amethyst Devlin

- Proposals-
    - Residence Hall Compost Pilots ($1200 request) - Daniel Covington
        - Mike McKinney- Motion to fund it as proposed
        - Second to motion to fund it
        - 6 yes votes, 1 abstention = passes
    - Bicycle Friendly University- Bicycle Advisory Committee ($75,000 request)- Amythest Devlin
        - Mike McKinney- Motion to fund it as proposed
        - Lauryn- Second to fund it
        - 7 yes votes = passes
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2/10/22

Voting Members List:
Faculty/Staff- Andrea Ludwig, Nicole Jones, Mike McKinney,
Students- Voting- Simon Jolly, Rachel Stewart, Madeline Ginsberg, Mary Beth Robbins;
Alternates- Lauryn Johnson, Ellen Bobo

Actually In Attendance:Jay Price (Chair), Jess GerberDolan, William Miller, ella dohrmann, Mary Beth Robbins, Carly Broady, Micheal McKinney, Madeline Ginsberg, Nicole Jones, Andrea Ludwig, Ellen Bobo, Sebastian Sanchez, James Freels, Lauryn Johnson

Other attendees:

Agenda:

- Updates
    - Unallocated balance as of 1/24/22 was $1,268,018
    - Student Design/Research balance of $84,563
- Proposals
    - Screening Machine for UT Compost Facility = $176,400
        - Motioned to pass, all voting members vote to pass this proposal
    - Bi-Polar Ion Generation
        - Student Design and Research category = $16,000
        - Motioned to pass, all voting members vote to pass this proposal
    - Shaving Winter Peak Heating Demand and Generating Renewable Energy During Peak Summer Demand Using Concentrated Parabolic Solar Collectors = $3,000
        - Student Design and Research category
        - Motioned to pass, all voting members vote to pass this proposal
    - Renewable Energy Garden = $85,000
        - Motioned to pass, all voting members vote to pass this proposal, with adjustment to keep the budget at $85,000, but remove the student prize per Terry Ledford's suggestion

April 18, 2022

Attendees: Mike, Nicole, Andrea, Simon, Lauryn, Madeline, Ellen, Mary Beth, Jay Price, + 3 presenters: Tamera Adjei, Brad Moats, Mike Ross.

Agenda:

- 4 proposals to vote on
- Budget Review (Tabled for future meeting)

Proposals:

1- 2022 Nissan Leaf proposal- Montgomery County Extension (Tamera Adjei), total request = $30,028
Questions:

- Who would actually drive the vehicle? Tamera and the other Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) employee.
- Who would be the primary beneficiaries? Families in the community, lacking transportation. Also people wanting to learn about purchasing an electric vehicle.
- Is this adding a vehicle or replacing a vehicle? Adding a vehicle. It would be wrapped with donor funding, as a highly mobile billboard.
- Who would pay for electricity? County government.
- Is it just for research? That's part of it, but also to connect people to resources that they need in the community. Bring people to us for education purposes, as well as educate while on the go. Connecting them to help agencies like WIC, Head Start. Program called Skill Up a hurdle might be getting to the resources.
- You would drive people around? Yes, and have rigorously trained volunteers doing that as well.

Passes: 6 YES votes, 2 NO votes
NOTE: Committee members expressed concern about the precedent of funding things that were not on campus and it was suggested that the committee establish guidelines for this so there was guidance for future proposals.

2- Bi-fuel (propane) truck upgrade- (Brad Moats), total request = $7,500
Questions: How difficult is this to convert? It's over a weekend, pretty simple. Replaces the spare tire with a tank, and adds the refueling components.
Passes: 8 YES votes, 0 NO votes

3- EV Strategic Plan Study Consultants- (Jay Price), total request = Not-to-exceed $30,000.
Passes: 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes, 1 Abstention

4- Green Roof Research Plot at the UT Gardens (Mike Ross/Mike McKinney), total request = $81,100

- These have to be moveable because they are on top of a KUB stormwater system, so easy to move with a forklift that UT Gardens has.
- Questions:
    - Is this student design and research? Yes. Primary purpose is student engagement, and experiential learning aspect of it. A grad student actually

designed by the platform, and students will be doing the research. The point of the project is to provide a space for students to do research.
    - Do we need to add funding for structural engineer? It would be good to have someone look at these to ensure they are safe. Add not to exceed $10,000 for consulting fees.
    - How hard to access? Any major, and open to anyone, they aren't fenced off.
    - Long-term maintenance? Management of sustainable landscape, so they do management on different landscapes, and green infrastructure class- both have experiential learning.

Motion to approve as a Student Design and Research line item with addition of a not-to-exceed amount of $10,000 for structural engineer to assess. Total cost = $81,100 + Not to exceed $10,000 = $91,100.

Passes: 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes, 1 Abstention

Budget Review tabled for future meeting