

September 2023

Voting Committee Members

Elijah Smith, Sophia Thompson, Tyler Porter, Michael Kyriakoudes, Andrea Ludwig, Michael McKinney, Becky Sparks

Other Attendees

Jay Price, Adam Barbian, Amelia Hollingsworth, Avery Kerley, James Newburn, Jack Disanza, Shepard Underwood, Holly Jones, Ellen Barnes

1. Introductions (SEIC members)
2. Background information (Jay)
3. Budget Overview (Jay)
4. Proposals

AmeriCorps members for the Office of Sustainability (Jay Price)

Project

To lock in funding for 5 years for up to 7 AmeriCorps members and up to 3 vehicles for them to use in their service to the Office of Sustainability and UT as a whole.

Benefits

AmeriCorps members provide the programming and support that the university has come to know from Recycling and Sustainability on campus. They oversee the student workers and are responsible for national reporting and sustainability tracking for campus.

Project Timeline

AmeriCorps members recruitment starts in January, and members begin their term in August each year.

Total Expected Cost

\$54,250 for FY 2024 and FY 2025

- Votes in Favor: Andrea, Tyler, Michael K, Becky, Elijah, Sophia
- **Passed**

UT Gardens Helping Hands Kitchen Garden Renovation Supplement (James Newburn)

Project

HHKG requesting additional funding in order to pay for a general contractor to oversee the project. Requires 5% of total project cost.

Benefits

(From original proposal) The HHKG supports UT's sustainability goals by addressing land and water use through free research-based garden education and by providing an accessible display of sustainable food growing practices for all visitors.

Project Timeline

On-going, mid-summer 2024 completion

Total Expected Cost

\$3383.10

- Votes in Favor: Michael M, Becky, Tyler, Michael K, Elijah
- **Passed**

**Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
Conference Funding (Hayley and Arden)**

Project

Students, Hayley Simpson and Arden Oberlander, and faculty member, Melissa Hinton, were accepted to be presenters at the AASHE conference in Boston. They will present on sustainability related experiential learning experiences at UT.

Benefits

Can help raise the profile of UT as a high-caliber institution devoted to experiential education in the sustainability field, and have an opportunity to learn from other examples of campus sustainability initiatives nationally.

Project Timeline

October 29-31, 2023

Total Expected Cost

\$1499.95 (Hayley)

\$1415.50 (Arden)

\$2915.45 (Total)

- (Email) Votes in Favor: Michael M, Tyler, Elijah, Becky, Lauryn
- **Passed**
- **NOTE:** Funding for student conferences was approved by the SEIC and the Oversight Committee at \$25,000 for FY 2021, but was never used. It was originally canceled by Terry Ledford, but we'd like to reinstate that so we can approve students to attend conferences quickly and not have to take each proposal to the Oversight Committee each time.

SPEAK Green Fee (Jack/Ellen)

Project

SPEAK is the longest standing student-led environmental club that meets to tackle different themes of environmentalism and sustainability by inviting professional

speakers, leading hands-on activities, and collaborating with other organizations on-campus.

Benefits

Strive to promote environmental action, but we also want to create a community that we can discuss these issues with.

Project Timeline

Fall 2023

Total Expected Cost

\$1021

- Votes in Favor: Michael M, Tyler, Michael K, Becky, Elijah
- **Fund with Oversight Committee**

Start-up of a new Student Association of the Society for Ecological Restoration (Amelia)

Project

A new student association SER is aiming to connect and promote restoration projects such as riparian buffer implementation; non-native vegetation replacement; invasive species removal; outreach and education.

Benefits

By helping return Tennessee to its original glory, ecological restoration will provide carbon sequestration, habitat reformation, clean rivers, and climate change mitigation. In addition, SER also has the opportunity to educate several age groups.

Total Expected Cost

\$4000

- Votes in Favor: Michael M, Tyler, Elijah, Michael K, Becky
- **Passed**

TABLED ITEMS

Sustainable Business Organization (Luke Cornelius)

Project

Requests additional funding to be able to provide our researchers and projects with a greater number of accessible resources, as well as to help our organization attract new members and retain current members.

Benefits

Direct investment in the advancement of UT's sustainable policy through SBO, Haslam's first organization focused on sustainability.

Project Timeline

September 2023 - December 2023

Total Expected Cost

\$500

- Votes in Favor:
- **Tabled**

Smokey's Cleanup Crew (Anthony Do)

Project

Aims to provide a valuable resource for UTK students to be able to participate in a community driven volunteering experience by cleaning litter and debris on UT campus.

Benefits

Large amounts of litter and waste that will be removed from campus creating value and increased facetime within the community building brand recognition.

Project Timeline

Start 23-24 year

Total Expected Cost

\$7000

- Votes in Favor:
- **Tabled**

Pollution Capture Net for 2nd Creek (Avery)

Project

Objective is to test the capture of 90-100% of trash before it enters our waterways using a StormX outfall pollution trap and a demonstration to the local leaders about the effectiveness of this project.

Benefits

Can prevent large amounts of large pollutants from reaching our waterways by catching waste in the runoff from 2nd creek outfall.

Project Timeline

12-15 months starting this fall

Total Expected Cost

\$74,144

- Votes in Favor:
- **Tabled**
- Awaiting further discussion

October 2023

Voting Committee Members

Elijah Smith, Andrea Ludwig, Becky Sparks, Michael Kyriakoudes, Mike McKinney, Tyler Porter

Other Attendees

Luke Cornelius

1. Oversight committee update:
 - \$100,000
 - Votes: Elijah, Tyler, Michael K, Michael M, Becky
2. Proposals:

Sustainable Business Organization (Luke Cornelius)

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Project Timeline

September 2023 - December 2023

Total Expected Cost

\$500

- Votes in Favor: Michael M, Andrea, Elijah, Becky, Tyler, Michael K
- **Passed**

Smokey's Cleanup Crew (Anthony Do)

Project

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Benefits

Large amounts of litter and waste will be removed from campus creating value and increased facetime within the community, building brand recognition.

Project Timeline

Start 23-24 year

Total Expected Cost

\$7000

- Votes in Favor: Michael M, Elijah, Michael K, Tyler, Becky, Andrea
- **Passed**

Students for Zero Waste Conference (Luke Cornelius and Julia Craven)

Project

Requests funding for Luke and Julia to attend the Students for Zero Waste 2023 Conference at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Benefits

Part of a larger endeavor aimed at reducing single-use plastics through UT's campus. Can gain more information regarding the efforts of fellow students who are actively addressing this issue at other universities.

Project Timeline

November 10 - 12, 2023

Total Expected Cost

\$900 each - \$1800 together

- Votes in Favor: Michael M, Becky, Andrea, Tyler, Elijah, Michael K
- **Passed**

Amendment to UT Gardens Helping Hands Kitchen Garden Renovation Supplement

Amendment

It has come to our attention that the LA fees for this project should not be assumed to fall under a Facilities Services fund. Based on the approved work order# 23.931.06, the Ross/Fowler fee proposal of NTE \$8770.00 for the UTK – Kitchen Gardens is therefore added to our SEIC (Green Fee) request.

Original request for General Contractor

\$3383.10

Amended request for Landscape Architect stamped

Kitchen Garden renovation drawings

\$8770.00

Total SEIC request for UTK

Kitchen Garden Renovation professional services*

\$12,153.10

*General Contractor and Landscape Architect

- Votes in Favor: Andrea, Michael M, Michael K, Tyler, Becky, Elijah
- **Passed**

November 2023

Voting Committee Members: Becky Sparks, Andrea Ludwig, Tyler Porter

Other Attendees: Jay Price, Dan Smith, Adam Barbian, Avery Kerley

1. Oversight committee update
2. Request of funds for upgrading compost facility: \$1.75M
3. Proposals:

Pollution Capture Feasibility Study (Avery Kerley)

Project:

Hiring contractor OHM to oversee a feasibility study on pollution capture device at stormwater outfall TNR-13 near 1598 Neyland Drive.

Benefits:

Can provide detailed insight for the implementation of the pollution capture project.

Project Timeline:

Report would take 4 weeks.

Total Expected Cost:

\$10,500 max

-Votes in Favor: Michael K, Elijah, Tyler, Michael M, Becky

-Passed

4. Suggestions for improvement:
 - 2 weeks in advance deadline, 1 week
 - Go to groups and solicit proposals-
 - Faculty Senate
 - Different Committees as well- get on some of the Committee agendas, Andrea was part of that, so she can connect us etc. Focus there rather than the overall senate.
 - Dean's Council
 - Exempt Staff Council
 - Employee Relations Committees
 - Office of Research
 - ISSE
 - Dean's offices, dean's staff
 - Baker School
 - Digital Signboards- especially in the student
 - Questions- set aside budget? Or just a list of types of projects
 - Track budget categories
 - Sometimes small projects can have a big reach.

December 2023

Voting Committee Members: Elijah, Tyler, Becky, Michael K, Michael M

Other Attendees: Jay, Adam, Brianna Smith, Dan Smith, Sam Adams, Derek Bailey

Proposals:

Bueno Building Analytics Platform with Newcomb & Boyd (Derek Bailey)

Project

Implementing new analytics platform, Bueno, to improve operational efficiency and develop a better understanding of UT's buildings.

Benefits

This partnership brings value from the analytics, fault detection, visualization, and scalability of the building software together with the consulting experience, engineering analysis and technology enablement of the consulting engineer.

Project Timeline

In tandem with Essex.

Total Expected Cost

\$83,200

-Votes in favor: Michael M, Becky, Michael K, Elijah, Tyler

-Passed

Essex Building Analysis Pilot (Derek Bailey)

Project

Pilot of Essex building analytics program to streamline and organize building data already being collected (i.e. energy/utility usage).

Benefits

Can quickly and conveniently summarize building performance to be used for analysis and reporting.

Project Timeline

Begin within 12-16 weeks of proposal acceptance

Total Expected Cost

\$15,200

-Votes in favor: Michael M, Becky, Michael K, Elijah, Tyler

-Passed

Arboriculture Team Resistance Measurement Drill (Sam Adams)

Project

Requesting purchase of a resistance measurement drill used to detect decay and internal defects on campus trees.

Benefits

Data gathered can help us make more informed decisions regarding whether or not a tree should be removed from campus.

Project Timeline

As soon as possible

Total Projected Cost

\$8,008.40

-Votes in favor: Michael M, Elijah, Becky, Tyler, Michael K

-Passed

Schedule for Spring Semester:

- Start in February: First Wednesday (7th) at 4pm.
- Michael K studying abroad, searching for a replacement. Will be present at the first meeting or two.
- Tyler also abroad, Jan-April, will need replacement from SGA.

February 2024

Voting Committee Members: Michael McKinney, Becky Sparks, Lauryn Johnson, Michael Kyriakoudes, Andrea Ludwig

Other Attendees: Jay Price, Adam Barbian, Byron Hughes, Dan Smith, Liz Teston, William Miller, Luke Cornelius, Jennifer Akerman, Jack Dodson, Catty Dan Zhang, Cameron Kunzer, Brad Moats, Maggie Atchley, Rachel Constantin, James Freels

1. Reminder of deadline to submit proposals
2. Proposals:

Attending Southeast Student Sustainability Conference (Luke Cornelius & Julia Craven)

Project

Funding for two students, Luke and Julia, to attend this year's Southeast Student Sustainability Conference in Athens, GA.

Benefits

Having the opportunity to attend a conference centered around sustainability conversations at other universities provides critical insights into the development and limitations UT has related to sustainability measures.

Project Timeline

2/23/2024 - 2/26/2024

Total Expected Cost

\$906

-Votes in Favor: Michael M, Becky, Michael K, Lauryn, Andrea

-Passed

SPEAK Garden Project (Reace Hummel)

Project

Funding for the continuation of last year's project: To provide fresh produce to the Culinary Institute, Big Orange Pantry, and Smokey's Pantry in an effort to combat food insecurity on campus.

Benefits

Connects students with hands-on learning experiences through growing their own food and understanding the process.

Total Expected Cost

Project Timeline

February 2024 - May 2024

-Votes in Favor: Lauryn, Andrea, Michael K, Becky, Michael M

-Passed

The Weather Holds Project (Liz Teston)

Project

To design, build, and evaluate an outdoor learning space using applied research that focuses on human thermal comfort and experiences—a core aspect of spatial and ecological research.

Benefits

Supports 4 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- Good Health and Well-Being
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Climate Action

Project Timeline

February 2024 - August 2024

Total Expected Cost

\$50,000

-Votes in Favor: Michael M, Becky, Lauryn, Andrea, Michael K

-Passed

Air-Ionization Project (William Miller)

Project

Goal is to disinfect air and adjoining surfaces using air ion generators placed in the supply-side of large commercial AHUs used for comfort conditioning buildings.

Benefits

Provides an excellent opportunity to improve indoor air quality. This complements UT's sustainability goals for a safe and more energy efficient zero waste campus.

Project Timeline

Spring 2024

Total Expected Cost

\$10,000

-Votes in Favor: Michael M, Becky, Lauryn, Andrea, Michael K

-Passed

Pallet Shredder (Brad Moats)

Project

Goal is to implement a pallet shredding and recycling program for the university, turning non-recyclable pallets into compostable material.

Benefits

Shredding non-recyclable pallets can divert them from landfill to our composting site, reducing our carbon footprint associated with waste disposal.

Project Timeline

- Month 2-4: Procure shredding equipment and setup.
- Month 4-5: Train personnel, establish logistics to integrate for existing pallet collection.
- Month 5-6: Commence pallet shredding and transport to the compost site.
- Ongoing: Regular operations, monitoring, and awareness campaigns.

Total Expected Cost

\$64,300

-Votes in Favor: Michael M, Michael K, Andrea, Lauryn, Becky

-Passed

Spring Funding for the Society for Ecological Restoration (Amelia Hollingsworth)

Project

To connect with active clubs and our community in order to create a large network of volunteers to help accelerate ecological restoration.

Benefits

Helps restore the original ecology of the land, many native species and systems will flourish and benefit the environment around them.

Project Timeline

Spring Semester 2024

Total Expected Cost

\$1,390

-Votes in Favor: Andrea, Michael M, Lauryn, Becky, Michael K

-Passed

March 2024

Voting Committee Members: Lauryn Johnson, Dan Smith, Becky Sparks, Andrea Ludwig, Byron Hughes

Other Attendees: Jay Price, Adam Barbian, Amelia Hollingsworth, Blake Weiss, Josephine Calhoun, Kathryn Myers, Lillian Epling, Sarah Garner

1. Budget Overview
2. Proposals:

Basic Needs Electric Vehicle Request (Blake Weiss)

Project

Seeking funding for the acquisition of an EV for Center of Basic Needs. It will serve operations for Big Orange Pantry, Smokey's Closet, etc.)

Benefits

Save on current spending of \$5,000 annually on renting vehicles, and significantly reduce the carbon footprint of their operations.

Project Timeline

Once approved, vehicle acquisition could take a few months or up to a year.

Total Expected Cost

\$57,000

-Votes in Favor: Lauryn, Andrea, Dan, Byron, Becky

-Passed

Compost Facility - Concrete Bays and Blowers (Jay Price)

Project

To add concrete, blowers, and a liquid catchment tank for the food waste side of the Compost Facility.

Benefits

Greatly increase the efficiency and space utilization of the Compost Facility.

Project Timeline

Summer 2024

Total Expected Cost

\$100,000

-Votes in Favor: Andrea, Becky, Dan, Lauryn, Byron

-Passed

MagDog Earth Day Fair (Josie Calhoon)

Project

Funding for the Mag Dog Programming Committee to host an Earth Day Fair for Magnolia and Dogwood residence halls.

Benefits

Help educate students about sustainability while celebrating Earth Day.

Project Timeline: Event on April 20th, 2024

Project Timeline

Event on April 20th, 2024

Total Expected Cost

\$550

-Votes in Favor: Dan, Byron, Andrea, Lauryn, Becky

-**Passed**

Pollinator Gardens (Amelia Hollingsworth & Lily Epling)

Project

Adding pollinator gardens to the area behind the Hopecote and Equity and Diversity to be functional to both wildlife and the UT community.

Benefits

Help maintain a healthy ecosystem for pollinators on campus, and add to the aesthetic of campus. Providing a public space for students to interact with nature.

Project Timeline

Spring Semester 2024

Total Expected Cost

\$6,750

- Votes in Favor: Lauryn, Andrea, Byron, Dan, Becky

- **Passed**