



Student Government Association

Environmental Affairs Committee

Feb 13, 2012

SGA Conference Suite

9:10 P.M.

- I. Call To Order at 9:10 pm
- II. Members Present
 - a. Jeff Cook, Kim Dawson, Kyle Zellner, and Trevor Fuller
 - b. Guest – Dr. Estevez
- III. Environmental Affairs Chair Report – Jeff Cook
- IV. Meeting with Dr. Estevez and Ken Statz
 - a. Dr. Estevez suggested that we should move the solar project to the roof to maximize efficiency and reduce maintenance and liability costs
 - b. Ken suggested that we could move the solar project to the roof with minimal changes to the site assessment
 - c. Ken hoped to have the site assessment done by Wednesday of this week
- V. Collection of Final Draft
 - a. Jeff will compile and edit the report
 - b. Trevor was going to send the in text citations later on for his section
 - c. Kim found an additional source discussing low income persons
 - d. Kyle compiled some information regarding the pollutants from the plant
- VI. Did we miss anything that could help our case?
 - a. Talk about Germany being twice the size of Wisconsin so we should be able to expect about half the energy that Germany produces at least.
 - b. Do we need to look at the costs of other providers, are we getting the cheapest price?
 - Bidding process should alleviate this concern
 - c. We should suggest that we understand housing's concerns and we have made changes to provide a compromise that all can agree on

- d. Static solar has the least maintenance costs and it is free energy
- e. Include in the mercury section that the federal government is trying to reduce mercury emissions by some 90% suggesting that this is a bad pollutant.

VII. What is next

- a. Still waiting on Solar assessment revisions hopefully we can get that by Wednesday.
- b. Dr. Estevez will then have a week to review the math and the assessment to discuss/affirm that it is cost effective, the payback is accurate, and the maintenance costs are very low
- c. Then we will fold that information into the housing report and send that to Glenn Gray to submit to the board on February 23rd.
- d. After expected approval by March 8th, we can resubmit the WPS foundation donation request form
- e. Additional funding source RHAA

VIII. Outdoor Multipurpose Space Meeting

- a. Jeff has submitted the following env. priorities for the committee to discuss
 1. Reducing the Carbon Footprint increase
 - a. Allow the mowed golfing site that was used years ago by Bay Fest to naturalize so as to not increase the campus' carbon footprint or the cost of grounds care (mowing, weeding, and raking).
 - b. Consider reverting some of the lawn behind the Mauthe Center to natural landscape, potentially transplant existing shrubs from site?
 2. Grading, how much and where?
 - a. I would suggest that minimal grading should be conducted as it disrupts natural soil and leads to compaction of existing soil which hinders drainage. Also, for the grading that is required we should consider developing a storm drainage system, or rain garden however small to help with reducing storm water runoff and then also illustrating to student's that storm water runoff is a concern whenever you develop land.
 3. Natural Walkways
 - a. AVOID PAVEMENT WHEREVER POSSIBLE! Tile and stone pathways encourage drainage and help to replenish groundwater levels. Also, they look a lot more natural and will help to increase the park like atmosphere. Additionally you can use tiles developed out of recycled material.
 4. Incorporate existing trees, natural landscape, and perennial wildflowers
 - a. retention of as many trees as possible in this region will help to reduce the increase in carbon foot print level as trees sequester a great deal of carbon. Additionally, by including natural landscape and perennial wildflowers you can add color to the landscape and reduce the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and mowing. This will reduce the destruction of insect habitat as well.

IX. Sustainability Ideas for next Semester and the Future

- a. Another opportunity to use the money is to develop a solar led lighting project for the Student Services Roof
- b. We will ask Paul Pinkston to research this further if housing declines the project

X. Announcements

- a. Energy Panel Discussion Feb 15th at 10am Phoenix Room A
 - Discuss energy policy, the current energy mix, the role of nuclear energy, and renewable energy in future energy policy

XI. Adjournment at 10:15 pm