

# USF Student Green Energy Fund Council



**Friday, February 19, 2021 – Virtual Teams Meeting**

**Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

## **In attendance:**

### **Council Members**

Ray Gonzalez, Sharon Hanna-West, Mazi Ferguson, Kianna Freeman, Kebreab Ghebremichael, Taylor Mandalou, Chris Marks, Raymond Mensah, Makayla Parnell, George Philippidis, Samuel Rechek, Robin Rives, Emalia Tack, Zachary Warhul, Alexis Mootoo (Chair)

## **Absent:**

**Observer(s):** Elizabeth Clifford, Emily Meyer, Kemi Ogunsanwo, Diego Guillen, James Ireland, Saviya Jean-Baptiste

## **First Order of Business:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. Attendance roll call was performed, and quorum was established. While reviewing the minutes, A. Mootoo addressed concerns that were raised from January's meeting. The fast track project, Green Events Project, was presented in the last meeting and questions were raised regarding the project approval. According to the minutes, a motion was placed and seconded to approve the project. The motion moved forward (voting did not occur after motion was seconded). M. Ferguson requested clarification on the role of the presiding chair when a motion is placed on the floor. During a brief deliberation, it was assumed that R. Gonzalez seconded the motion to approve the Green Events Project in the February SGEF Council meeting. S. Jean-Baptiste clarified that the motion was not seconded by R. Gonzales. After the deliberation, S. Hanna-West motioned to approve the minutes and R. Gonzales seconded the motion.

## **Financial Update:**

The council reviewed and approved the financial report for the 2020-2021 projects. The report lists all the current projects, individual budgets, encumbrances, actuals, and initial project budgets. The current cash balance as of 1/30/2021 is \$4.1 million. The uploaded budget total for FY 20-21 total \$1,293,958 and the encumbrances and actuals total \$822,792. K. Ghebremichael posed a question regarding the negative total for summer semester. A. Mootoo responded that the university did not collect fees for the summer and adjustments resulted in the negative total amount for Summer semester. K. Ghebremichael motioned to approve the financial report and R. Gonzales seconded the motion.

**Approval Process Review:**

S. Jean- Baptiste briefly summarized the three-tiered project system. The three levels include projects that are under \$5,000 or Fast Track Projects, Medium-Range projects that are between \$5,001 and \$250,00, and Signature Grants that projects that are over \$250,000. S. Jean-Baptiste reminded the council that according to the charter, Medium-Range and Signature grants require evaluation from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), however TAG has been inactive.

**Presentations:**

**Projecting Energy Savings and Carbon Emissions Reduction Thru Building Metering**

D. Guillen and J. Ireland presented a project summary to address USF power usage concern. The goal of the project is to measure and analyze the energy and water by installing utility meters in certain buildings. This data will help determine energy inefficiencies, impact of equipment on energy consumption, and energy grid future planning. Collecting this data will also help with University AASHE reporting. Eight buildings were identified and selected for the installation and the total cost of the project will be \$343,014.83. This will be a one-time investment and will cover the cost of installing the meters. It is estimated that the project will be completed in fourteen months.

After the presentation, the presenters addressed and answered questions from the council. K. Freeman wanted to know if the presenters were affiliated or partnered with Facilities Management and if so, what was there role with this project. J. Ireland responded and stted the both he and D. Guillen are employed in Facilities Management and FM has the capabilities to identify which buildings need to collect power usage data. There were several concerns regarding the lack of solutions in the summary. D. Guillen and J. Ireland agreed, but stressed that installing the meters will enable the university to understand the how buildings use and or waste energy. Collecting this data will then help the university address these issues. K. Ghebremichael a comment regarding the unit measurements in the calculation of GHG emissions. In the interest of time the council will reconvene to discuss and vote on the project summary.

**MDL Group Learning & MDC Shimberg Library LED Lighting Upgrade**

E. Clifford, K. Ogunsanwo and E. Meyer presented an update to the MDL and Shimberg LED project. The project was approved two years ago, however the amount requested will not cover the scope of the project. An assessment was conducted recently and it was determined that an additional \$126,573 is needed to complete the project. The MDL Group Learning and MDC Shimberg Library were recently renovated. However, the lights are quite dark and inefficient, and it was determined that 60,000 square feet is impacted. K. Ogunsanwo presented scope of the project renovations and provided three options to complete the project. The first two options would only cover part of the area and the third option would be cover the impacted areas and therefore require additional funds. After the presentation, the presenters addressed and answered questions from the council. A main concern throughout the deliberations was in regard to other sources of funding. R. Gonzalez stated that the university

has limited funds for energy saving projects. In the interest of time the council will reconvene to discuss and vote on this request by the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.**