

USF Student Green Energy Fund Council



Friday, March 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, Chris Marks, George Philippidis, Samuel Rechek, Robin Rives, Emalia Tack, Alexis Mootoo (Chair)

Absent: Taylor Mandalou, Ray Mensah, Mikayla Parnell, Zachary Warhul

Observer(s): Elizabeth Clifford, Kemi Ogunsanwo, 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. During this time, R. Rives requested to have the meeting recorded so it could be published on the website. After a brief discussion, council members suggested seeking approval prior to recording the meetings. A. Mootoo will follow-up in the next meeting. Afterwards, the meeting minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

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 2/28/2021 is \$4.2 million. The uploaded budget total for FY 20-21 total \$1,292,214 and the encumbrances and actuals total \$778,165. The report now includes a line item for 5% reserves. After the council reviewed the financial report, K. Ghebremichael motioned to approve the report, S. Hanna-West seconded the motion and the financial report was approved.

Unfinished Business:

Green Events Project

The Green Events Project was reviewed by the council in January, however members did not vote to approve the project. Additionally, the total budget for the project is more than \$5,000 and therefore disqualifies it for the Fast-track grant. After a brief summary and discussion, the council decided to reduce the budget and email the offer to the Green Events Project group for their approval. S. Jean-Baptiste will email the group on Monday, March 22, 2021 of the council's decision.

Projecting Energy Savings and Carbon Emissions Reduction Thru Building Metering

Due to time restraints from the previous meeting, the council reconvened to deliberate and vote to approve the project summary presented by D. Guillen J. Ireland. J. Ireland provided a brief summary of the project, which was then followed by an open discussion. Concerns were raised regarding utilizing SGEF funds to support projects that should be funded through the university. Revenue generation and maintenance costs were other concerns that were raised. Council members discussed ways that projects can give back to the SGEF fund. It was suggested that projects can share costs with other departments or give back a portion of the rebates and savings to the fund. When the ten minute discussion time lapsed, S. Rechek placed a motion to vote to approve the project summary. The motion was seconded by R. Rives and members voted. Based on the results of 9 “yes” votes to 0 “no” votes, the project summary was approved by the council.

MDL Group Learning & MDC Shimberg Library LED Lighting Upgrade

In the previous SGEF meeting E. Clifford, K. Ogunsanwo and E. Meyer presented an update regarding the MDL and Shimberg LED project. After the project was reassessed, it was determined that the project needs additional funding. E. Clifford provided a brief summary of the project detailing the request of an additional funding of \$129,682 to accommodate the difference and fully complete the project. E. Clifford also provided a second option, which would be to move forward with the project without additional funding by reducing the scope. After the council deliberated briefly, K. Ghebremichael put a motion on the floor to approve the additional funding with the stipulation that the energy savings will return to the fund. Kianna seconded the motion and members voted. At first the proposal was approved with 4 “yes” votes to 3 “no” votes. However, R. Gonzalez and C. Marks clarified that the energy savings could not be returned to the fund because the building is supported by E7G funds. Therefore the motion was amended to approve the additional without stipulations. K. Ghebremichael placed the motion on the floor to vote again and R. Gonzalez seconded the motion. Based on the results of 2 “yes” votes to 4 “no” votes, the proposal for additional funding was not approved.

Presentation:

Bicycle Shelter System

Due to time constraints, the council will reconvene next month to review this proposal.

Additionally due to Spring Break, the next SGEF council meeting will be held on April 9, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.