

USF Student Green Energy Fund Council



Friday, March 24, 2017 – ALN 296

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Council Members

Nainan Desai, Barbara Rushnell, Raymond Mensah, Sara Hendricks, Benjamin Carr, Robin Rives, Chauncie Bigler, Travis Malott, Lauren Riley, Nadeem Freajah, Kebreab Ghebremichael (Chair Substitute)

Absent: Sujit Chemburkar, George Phillippidis, Aladdin Hiba, Harold Bower (Chair)

Observer(s): Gidi Hendrix and Melody Rainey

First Order of Business:

Previous month meeting minutes approved.

Financial Status:

Cash balance as of 3/21/2017 includes the 2017 spring collections bringing the cash balance total to \$3,628,491. Active Projects RSA - prior year awards (\$2,067,249), Active Projects RSA - FY 16/17 awards (\$555,334), projected operational expenses (\$9,214) and the total projected expenses of (\$2,631,797) brings the projected available cash to \$996,694. The FY 2017 estimated fee collection is \$144,700. The 10% contingency (\$103,323) and a 5% reserve of (\$51,662) brings the projected available cash to award in FY 2017 to \$956,409.

Due to the amount of projects being presented at this meeting (over \$2 million) and the amount left to award there is a deficit. The council will need to decide how to award the remaining funds. There was discussion of how the fees collected for the coming fiscal year are collected. The fees collected in the fall and spring could affect the decision for funding the projects being presented and when the funds would be applied. There was a question regarding ranking the projects or awarding the projects in order that they are presented to the Council. For the projects that had representatives, it was suggested to hear the proposals first and ask some of those proposers if they would be willing to reduce the amount requested for their project. The council also suggested basing their decisions on time sensitivity of the projects.

Public Comment

The LED Beard Garage has been completed. The project manager mentioned that about \$100,000 should be coming back to the SGEF. An email should be sent to the Director of Finance and Budget in Shared Services Center to formally request the remaining budget be transferred back to the fund. After the meeting the Director of Finance and Budget researched the remaining funds from the LED Beard Garage project. It was determined that the project still has outstanding invoices that need to be paid and therefore the \$100,000 could not be counted on as potential additional cash to award.

Parking and Transportation commented that they have benefitted greatly from the EV Charging Stations in Beard Garage and would like to recommend that more stations be added.

Unfinished Business:

- **Referendum**

The 2017 Student Green Energy Fee Referendum passed and will be effective for the next 3 years. The referendum will be voted on again in 2020.

A motion to wait to get more information on the email votes for the Solar Umbrellas and CPT Boiler Proposals was suggested.

Motion voted and denied.

- **Solar Umbrella Proposal - Email Vote**

The results for the SGEF Council member email votes was not sufficient for a decision. Therefore, this project was discussed at the SGEF meeting again. Since the new student council members were not familiar with this project, the proposal was shared with them so that they could familiarize themselves with the project before voting.

The project is requesting \$7,340 from the SGEF for 4 Solar Charging Umbrellas. If funded, the umbrellas would provide shade and serve as a charging station. Although there is not significant energy savings, it would be a visible SGEF project on the USF Health side of the campus. SGEF allows for projects to include all sustainable projects. USF Health would maintain the umbrellas.

The council requested additional information about how sturdy the product is as well as information on the warranty.

Motion to postpone the vote on the Solar Umbrella Proposal.

Motion voted and approved.

- **CPT Boiler Proposal - Email Vote**

The results for the SGEF Council member email votes was not sufficient for a decision. Therefore, this project was discussed at the SGEF meeting again. Since the new student council members were not familiar with this project, the proposal was shared with them so that they could familiarize themselves with the project before voting.

The project proposal is to install a localized, state of the art heating system for the REC pool. Currently, the hot water is transported from a boiler located in the center of campus. A localized condensing boiler installed at the Campus Recreation Center will efficiently replace both existing systems and combine them into a standalone system. The CPT boiler is known to operate at about 78% efficiency, while the condensing boiler will operate at 98% efficiency extracting 98% of heat from the natural gas burnt in the boiler. Using the condensing boiler would see nearly 20% savings in natural gas burnt (\$2,000-\$15,768 approximate savings per year), CO2 reduction (40-300 tons) and GHG reduction.

The hot water distribution system from the CPT boilers to REC is estimated to lose 30% heat in the heating of the pool water. By installing the localized condensing boiler, the in-ground distribution losses would be eliminated. An additional savings in electricity would also come from not having to pump hot water from CPT to REC. Facilities Management would maintain the boiler once the project is complete. The proposal is requesting \$145,000 for the project.

The council asked if the boiler would heat only the pool or also supply hot water for showers. Eventually, Facilities Management could fund the additional cost of a larger boiler which would supply all hot water.

Motion voted and approved.

New Business

- ❖ **Proposals**

- **Additional Budget Request to Cover Marketing Materials**

The Student Green Energy Fee has already made provision for marketing the SGEF. However, since the fund has been used for the Week of Welcome, Arbor Day, the Referendum, and EcoFest a request to cover the remaining expenses exceeds 10 percent. The amount requested to cover the remaining expenses such as giveaways for EcoFest is \$2,250. EcoFest reimburses the expenses after the event. The amount reimbursed would come back to the SGEF.

Council voted and approved the additional budget.

- **Electric Bus**

The project presented was to purchase a 40 foot electric bus (rather than 2) in order to begin transitioning USF's diesel-fueled bus fleet. The construction of the proposed lot for the bus and an upgrade for the transformer will also need to be done. Parking & Transportation will save fuel costs and the GHG is expected to be reduced with the purchase of the electric bus. Parking & Transportation will oversee and maintain the project once it is completed. The funds being requested from the SGEF to purchase the electric bus is \$600,000 with \$600,000 matching funds from Parking & Transportation.

The council asked about the time sensitivity of the project. The project would like to have the bus for this fall, therefore the funds are needed as soon as possible. The council asked if the greenhouse savings

would come from TECO Energy and if it would be significant. The answer was yes. Another question from the council was if the infrastructure and purchase of the bus could be done in stages. The proposer was concerned that the infrastructure would be funded but not the bus and then the funds would be wasted on just the infrastructure.

Motion voted and approved.

- **Tree Planting PH2**

The project is seeking to add 69 trees at \$1,000 each for a total of \$69,000. The price includes irrigation, installation, and transportation of the trees to the location. The project will reduce GHG and reduce the carbon footprint at USF Tampa Campus. Trees will also reduce sun exposure for pedestrians. It is also planned that the purchase of the trees will be a part of the late dedication for Arbor Day. Facilities Management would continue to maintain the project after completion.

The council asked about the time sensitivity of the project and if the proposer could reduce the amount of the trees. Based on locations, the proposer does not have a time sensitivity since infrastructure would need to be taken into consideration. The proposer also agreed to purchase whatever the council approved. The council suggested funds for half the trees in the total amount of \$37,400.

Council voted and approved the proposal.

- **EV Charging Stations PH3**

In 2011, USF made a groundbreaking decision to install 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the parking lot by the Marshall Student Center. With increasing EV owners at USF, the demand for stations is continuing to exceed the current supply. The proposers would like to place 2 charging stations in all the parking garages without EV charging stations, including 2 strategic parking lot locations in the vicinity of the Sun Dome. The request to the SGEF is \$183,079. The project would be maintained by Parking & Transportation after completion of the project.

The council asked about the time sensitivity of the project and if the proposer could reduce the amount of EV Charging Stations. The proposer did not feel the project could be reduced and that time was of essence for the project. The council asked how the carbon footprint would be affected. The Chargepoint system would be able to calculate all the CO2 saving and the data collected would also include information on the current and previously installed EV Charging Stations. The council asked if the students would have to pay to use the EV Charging Stations. Chargepoint allows for this option.

Motion voted and approved.

- **LED in Laurel & Collins Parking Garage**

With funding from SGEF, this project will provide 538 light fixtures/ 6 pole replacements to the Laurel Parking Garage and 487 fixtures/ 6 pole replacements to the Collins Parking Garage. The light fixtures currently in use will be replaced with new fixtures that are scientifically proven to last longer while costing less to maintain (the majority of the lighting industry approves this as common knowledge). The lights and the fixtures that are replaced in good condition will be recycled by PATS. PATS will maintain and fix any of the LED lights that break after this project is finished, and PATS has assumed full responsibility. The funds requested from SGEF is \$692,693.18.

The council asked about the time sensitivity of the project and if the proposer could reduce the amount. The proposer was willing to reduce it to \$294,941 so that a full garage could be done. The council requested that this project be postponed until a later date.

Motion voted and approved.

The amount thus far for the projects requested totaled \$1.1 million. There was a discussion of how and which projects to fund and prioritize.

There was a suggestion to add the charter to the website so that new council members could familiarize themselves with it. The charter was pulled up during the meeting for the new council members to refer to it. Since there was a question about basing funding on the return of investment, the Board of Governor's resolution document was referenced. The document does reference potential ROI as being an important factor in funding projects.

Due to some confusion about funds returning to the SGEF, the votes at the meeting needed to be emailed out again requesting use of contingency funds to cover the deficit.

Email was voted and approved.

Activities Updates

- **REC Purchase Final Project Update**

Postponed.

- **Campus Rec Tennis & Basketball LED Lights Project Update**

Postponed.

- **MSC Solar Panels Project Update**

Postponed.

Announcements

Although there is no funding left for immediate projects, there will be a meeting in April.

Adjourned at 5:22 PM