

# USF Student Green Energy Fund Council



Friday, June 16, 2017 – SVC 1073

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

## Meeting Minutes

### In attendance:

#### Council Members (In alphabetical order)

Benjamin Carr, Nadeem Freajah, Kebreab Ghebremichael, Sara Hendricks (Alternate), Aladdin Hiba, Lauren Monti, and Harold Bower (Chair)

**Absent:** Chauncie Bigler (Alternate), Nainan Desai, Barbara Bushnell, Sujit Chemburkar, Robin Rives, Travis Malott, George Philippidis, and Raymond Mensah

**Observer(s):** Gidi Hendrix (Observers)

### First Order of Business:

Previous month meeting minutes were approved by email.

### Financial Update:

Uncommitted funds have not posted to cash SGEF. Although not finalized, the amount expected to return to the fund is around \$32,000. The exact amount returned to the SGEF will be announced. No additional funds are available for allocation to projects until next fiscal year. Funding will be allocated to new proposals in the queue after the 2017/18 budget becomes available on July 1, 2017.

### Public Comment

None.

### Discussion

#### x Sustainable Transportation Presentation by CUTR

(See attached presentation)

The Director of the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research, (CUTR), Dr. Robert Bertini and Allison Yeh of the Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization shared information about plans to develop a Campus Transportation Test Lab for innovations relating to sustainable transportation. Dr. Bertini presented the potential project involving autonomous vehicles here on campus.

The council asked if there is a planned route. Currently the project is working on finding what type of services they would like to provide and based on their studies the route will be selected. The project would likely be presented in a year.

x **SGEF Rubric/Rating System Discussion**

The council discussed ideas on how to fund projects since the funds have been exhausted. One idea is to have alternating meetings; one meeting to discuss the various project summaries and the next meeting to fund the projects decided upon. Minimizing the meetings to allocate funding and setting a cap on funds allotted per semester will help fund potentially better projects. Another discussion was to have allocations on projects quarterly so that there will be more time to review and discuss projects. The concern is that money may be exhausted quickly on projects that come in at the beginning of the year and later projects would have to wait, which presents a problem with some students since they may graduate before the project begins. The chair suggested a proposal for the rubric to be done since the bylaws are also currently being created. Another discussion was that before a project is approved, a condition would be made that a portion of the cost savings of the project would come back to the SGEF. The number favored would be 50% of the cost savings.

There was conversation to only have bylaws and a slim charter or to only have bylaws. The chair also suggested

**will**

In collaboration with the Environmental Health and Safety, Facility Management, and Building Code Official a pilot project of Ionization (iBar) technology was applied to the sixth floor of USF library HVAC units (2) to reduce VOC's which in turn permitted reduction in outdoor air per Florida Building code. This in turn reduces the carbon foot print, cooling and heating loads, and the energy cost. The USF Library is a seven story building served by 12 air handling units. The sixth floor has 34,342 gross square feet served by two air handling units. These two air handling units were retrofitted with iBar technology with data logging for before and after, and for VOC's and CO2. The results successfully demonstrated a reduction in carbon foot print through use of iBar technology.

The installation of iBar technology is expected to reduce the carbon foot print by 46 eMT through the reduction of 60,462 kWh of electricity, and 661 therms of natural gas, resulting in annual savings of \$51,670. In addition to the above, iBar technology also keeps the cooling coil clean. It improves indoor air quality for the building occupants by reducing VOCs, odors, destroying bacteria and virus, and better filtration. Indoor air quality is important because students spend several hours studying indoors. Additionally, there is a benefit expected from Innovation Credits in the next STAR6

the initiative to increase USF's tree cover. A budget increase of \$11,000 would allow for the planting of 11 additional trees, with a total of 49 trees planted through this project.

The GHG reduction benefits of this project are immediate and long term, with the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of the USF Tampa campus. At the age of 40 years, each tree from this project has the potential to sequester 1 ton of CO2. One mature tree (average tree planted) can absorb approximately 911 lbs. of CO2 per year. 49 trees can absorb 44,639 lbs. of CO2 per year.