SSI FEE BOARD MINUTES | MARCH 8, 2012

DETAILS

Minute Taker: Morgan Dumitru
Timekeeper: Brian Laird
Present: Justin Russell, Brian Laird, Morgan Dumitru, Brandon Trelstad, Olivia Poblacion, Kyle Ireton, Ryan Stewart, Laura Jones, Emily Bowling,
Absent: None.

AGENDA

Updates, presented by All (8 Minutes)
Budget Process Update, presented by Morgan (40 Minutes)
Travel Grants, presented by Justin (22 Minutes)
Research Grants, presented by Justin (10 Minutes)
Hiring, presented by Morgan (16 Minutes)
Next Meeting, presented by Timekeeper (0 Minutes)

MINUTES

UPDATES – 1:00 TO 1:08

DISCUSSION

• Brandon updated board on the solar electric projects: one by the vegetable farm going fine, one at OCCUH needs a bit more structural work, one at Gilmore is going fine, and one at the new Legacy Fields is going fine.
• Brandon advised board that if we want to step up the pace and type of funding, we’ll need to get on potential projects for next year now and discuss the types and scopes of those projects.
• Brian suggested focusing on solar-thermal projects to heat OSU’s pools.
• Morgan notified board that the vote on whether to approve a change in Solar Vehicle grant fund usage to include race entry fees passed.
• Olivia updated board on the Textile Symposium grant recipient.

BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE – 1:08 TO 1:48

DISCUSSION

• Morgan updated the board on the SIFC open hearing last Thursday, the intermediate steps taken, and the meeting with SIFC and AABC representatives last Tuesday.
• Primary concerns raised by SIFC were:
  o RLF mechanics (capitalization, management, location, and usage)
• Working Capital level
  • Primary concerns of the SSI:
    o The process that got us to a $0.70 reduction
    o How we will reduce the current level of working capital and ensure we don’t
  • Additional concern held by AABC:
    o The role of student fees collected for sustainability projects for capital construction

ACTION ITEMS
• Brandon will continue to pursue meetings to clarify the background information to this process.
• Justin will draft a document recounting this event or process.

TRAVEL GRANTS – 1:48 TO 2:10
DISCUSSION
• Morgan notified the board that the motion to amend travel grant restrictions to exclude reimbursements did not pass.
• Emily updated board on the process for travel reimbursements. (They are not restricted to the new $100 limit on personal reimbursements, they need to be approved by Ryan in AABC.)
• Board discussed the pros and cons of restricting grant usage to exclude reimbursements.
• Emily recommended that the AABC weigh in on language used in the materials for each grant.

DECISION(S)
• Board approved the restriction of all grants to exclude purchases requiring reimbursements, but allow their usage as a last resort for items that could otherwise be purchased by other means but for some reason had not.
• Board agreed that Emily should consult with AABC on the language used on all grant materials.

ACTION ITEMS
• Emily will consult with AABC on grant material wording by the next meeting.

RESEARCH GRANTS – 2:10 TO 2:20
DISCUSSION
• Brandon asked whether the SSI should really be looking for another program to move forwards with.
• Justin suggested rolling the research and project grants into a single program.
• Morgan reminded the board of where we started this conversation last August.
• Emily suggested that it might be premature to tackle this given that the Director of Undergraduate Research (Kevin Ahern) is just now coming online.
• Brandon recommended having Kevin meet with the Fee Board.

DECISION(S)
• Board agreed that research and project grants should be separated.

ACTION ITEMS
• Brandon will contact Kevin to see if he would be willing to sit down with the board early next term.

HIRING – 2:20 TO 2:36
DISCUSSION
• Morgan updated board on the current plan for hiring, training, and transition for spring 2012.
• Rough Timeline for Director Position
  o PDs approved March 15th
Position open March 19th
Applications due April 15th
Position filled April 25th

Rough Timeline for Staff Positions
PDs approved March 15th
Positions opened April 2nd
Applications due May 2nd
Positions filled May 7th

Board discussed rolling project coordinators into a single PD with details on specific area requirements.

DECISION(S)
Board approved rolling project coordinators into a single PD with details on specific area requirements.

ACTION ITEMS
Morgan and Brian will bring semi-final PDs by the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING – 2:40 TO 2:40

DECISION
The next meeting will be on Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the OSU Student Sustainability Center.

Potential agenda items include:
- Hiring
- Travel Grants

Tabled items include:
- Research Grants
- Budget Process