Clean Energy Fund Recommendations | Submitted February 2019

Submitted by the Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Council to Richard Cate, VP for Finance

This document serves as an appendix to the recommendations made regarding the fall 2018 Clean Energy Fund Forum, submitted and approved in January 2019.

During the deliberation process following the Fall 2018 Clean Energy Fund Forum, the SRI Advisory Council voted to fund three of the seven proposals presented at the forum (Covered Bike Parking, Energy Action Seminar, and Solar Garden Shed). The group delayed voting on the Green Labs proposal presented by Michael Lane, Director of Instrumentation and Technical Services, and requested more information before moving forward to a vote.

Green Labs Proposal

In a meeting on February 7th, the SRI Advisory Council voted to recommend funding for the Green Labs proposal at $38,798 for a pilot program designed to increase the efficiency of refrigerators and freezers on campus. This decision came after a discussion requested by the SRI Advisory Council between Elizabeth Palchak, Sustainable Funds Coordinator; Rich Wolbach, Energy Manager; and Dr. Gordon Jensen, Assistant Dean of the College of Medicine. Dr. Jensen agreed to support the outcomes of the Green Labs pilot by training his staff to conduct routine maintenance if the pilot shows the expected increase in energy efficiency of these appliances. Most of the freezers and refrigerators on campus are housed within the College of Medicine. Moving forward, Dr. Gordon Jensen has also agreed to purchase high efficiency freezers and refrigerators, based on Rich Wolbach's recommendations. The next step of this

EcoPower Fitness

Name of presenter: Gabriella Ostrov, Emma Radeka, Dan Kirk

Proposal summary: These students proposed buying three fitness bikes that generate electricity and "send it back to the grid", for installation in the Athletic Center. This builds on a proposal brought forward by Greg Bates, the director of the Athletic Center and not funded. The technology has improved since the original funding proposal.

Funding request: $5,614

Recommendation: After extensive deliberation and further research, it became clear that the technology is not as revolutionary as the company depicts but has the potential charge cell phones and small devices during use. Members wondered if this was a type of "greenwashing" by the company. Nonetheless, the potential for educational opportunities exist if students are educated on the value of electricity during bike use. However, conversations with Greg uncovered that though he is excited and willing to include the bikes in the *new* Athletic Center – to be finished in 2021 – he has no room in the current building for new bikes. **The group voted unanimously to not fund the proposal and instead encourage Greg to return with the proposal in two years when construction is closer to finished and use of the bikes is imminent.**

Funded: Energy Action Seminar

Name of presenter: Mark Usher, Lyman-Roberts Professor of Classics and The Environmental Program and seven other faculty members from across the college

Proposal summary: This proposal is very similar to the Energy Action Seminar funded twice in the past (and proposed by Richard Watts). This new proposal extends responsibility for the seminar across seven new departments at the university and extends the reach to eight faculty members. The proposal requests the funding to host ten speakers on energy issues each year with one "high impact" speaker per year, who would be higher profile and more expensive.

Funding request: $45,000

Recommendation: After raising questions for Mark regarding the person responsible for the seminar and encouraging the hiring of graduate interns, **the group moved to fund the seminar at $30,000 and voted and passed the motion unanimously.**

Funded: Garden Solar Shed

Name of presenter: Mark Starrett, professor in CALS

Proposal summary: Funding is requested to buy materials and build a demonstration garden shed with solar panels on campus. The solar panels would charge electrical lawn and garden equipment and be

Landscape Advisory Committee and asked for input on the exact location and impacts of the shed. The proposal includes the purchasing of the rechargeable tools. Student interns would help care for the shed, already part of the educational garden and could be used by other courses on campus. Campus Planning had not been consulted, but Mark emphasized a thorough stakeholder engagement process to generate support and build collaboration.

Funding request: $14,050

Recommendation: Members passed a unanimous motion to fund the shed fully.

Still under discussion: Green Labs Refrigerator and Freezer Maintenance

Name of presenter: Michael Lane, Director of Instrumentation and Technical Services

Proposal summary: Michael Lane presented a very thorough proposal, built from an earlier proposal funded by the CEF, to request funding for a pilot program establishing maintenance schedules and educational material to increase the efficiency of 996 refrigerators and freezers in labs across campus. Research indicates that routine maintenance can reduce energy use by at least 10%. Funding is largely for the staff labor associated with the initiative.

Funding request: $38,798

Recommendation: During extensive deliberations about this project, questions were raised related to the Colleget ` מ eẓ ə h b eve מ e e †] ⁸ ᴴ †