

July 18, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a distinct pleasure to offer my endorsement and letter of affirmation for STARS Innovation Credit #2 titled "Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives: Green Request for Proposal (Green RFP)."

In response to a request to initiate a student green fee, the University created a pilot program to solicit and respond to proposals from recognized student organizations to help advance campus sustainability. The "Green RFP Program" was developed in partnership with representatives from the Office of Budget and Financial Planning and the Office of Energy and Sustainability and was implemented at the beginning of the Academic Year 2010-2011. I served as the primary representative with the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for that effort. Especially noteworthy with this program was the unique process developed and the accelerated timeline. Our intent was for all proposals submitted to be reviewed, approved, funded, and executed within the same fiscal year and ideally before the completion of the spring semester.

It is my belief that the Green RFP Program meets all of the STARS Innovation Criteria, and especially reflects criterion #1:

#1 - Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit.

Unique aspects of the Green RFP Program process included the following. First, each proposal must be submitted at the beginning of the fall semester and clearly demonstrate that it supports one or more of the 14 points contained in "The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment" approved by our Board of Visitors on June 1, 2009. Second, each proposal must be submitted using the approved Green RFP format and it must include a detailed cost analysis if appropriate. Third, the newly established Office of Energy and Sustainability (OES) would receive all proposals and conduct a thorough review of the documentation for accuracy and completeness. Fourth, proposals would be formally presented by OES to the Energy and Sustainability Committee for further. This Committee is part of the university governance system and they provided a third-party independent review. This unique aspect gave the review process greater legitimacy. Fifth, following their review, the Energy and Sustainability Committee would prioritize all Green RFPs and forward the results and recommendations to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for approval and funding consideration. Sixth, the Office of Budget and Financial Planning would present those proposals recommended for approval and funding to senior leadership. Seventh, following the decision of senior leadership, the Office of Budget and Financial Planning would determine funding sources for approved proposals and distribute the

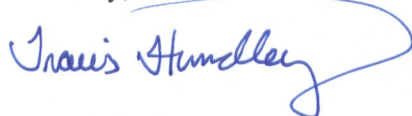
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results. Eighth, the Office of Energy and Sustainability would receive funding for implementation and oversee the execution.

During the development of the Green RFP Program, I coordinated efforts in developing the content of the RFP request, format, and processes with Office of Energy and Sustainability, Provost Office, and Office of Budget and Financial Planning. Once the top proposals were selected by Energy and Sustainability Committee, I organized an executive review of the proposals with Tim Hodge - University Budget Director, Dwight Shelton - Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Ken Smith - Associate Provost for Resource Management and Planning, Mark McNamee - Senior Vice President and Provost, Sherwood Wilson - Vice President for Administrative Services, and Ed Spencer - Vice President for Student Affairs. Upon receiving executive support, the Office of Budget and Financial Planning formalized a funding plan for each proposal and notified the Office of Energy and Sustainability of support.

For the reasons stated above, I highly recommend the Green RFP for the STARS Innovation category based on its unique approach towards engaging and advancing student organization sustainability initiatives on an accelerated timeline.

Sincerely,



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