**RELF Working Group**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday April 14th, 2010 3:00-4:00 UC 224**

**Members Present:** Robin Saha, Alex Zimmerman, Erica Bloom, Patrick Rhea, Nick Bowman, Emily Schembra, Jake Armstrong

**Members Not Present:** Len Broberg, Amanda Summers

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| **Initial Proposals**  |
| **BEAM** * Alex commented on the BEAM and Prius Effect proposals: These projects’ energy savings are based upon behavior change. The BEAM looked at Oberlin College as a case study and took the conservative estimate of 5% energy savings from this project
* Pat asked: How does Residence Life feel about payback for a monitoring system that may not give them quantifiable energy savings? Residence Life seemed to think the RELF is a grant, but now understands it is a loan.
* Robin and BEAM group met with Residence Life and they understand their approval of the project not to be the final go ahead but a signature to prove they communicated with the students and are on board in the initial phase.
* Robin commented: BEAM group went with most expensive version of monitoring system, but the group received an e-mail at the last minute from another company which can offer a better price.
* Discussion about which dorms to put monitoring system and how many dorms. Pat suggested the systems can go into one dorm only, along with the Clean Laundry. Others suggested doing two or more dorms to set up monitoring systems for a competition between dorms.

**Genuine Draft** * Emily asked: Why did the Genuine Draft group not expand to more dorms?
* The committee asked about the potential energy savings that could be achieved from other dorms.
* The committee would like to document the energy saved. Is there a tool that could measure the energy saved just from the sensors?

**Prius Effect:*** Pat had some concerns with funding the UM FLAT Prius Effect monitoring system. He did not think this would make a big enough impact on the campus community. Felt this fund should be used for projects that effected many students.
* Others wanted to see how this project would be showcased to the campus. Will this be through open house, tours, classes?
* Right now the project will only be seen by the residents of the second house. How can UM FLAT expand this, and show quantifiable energy savings?

**Operation: Clean Laundry*** The committee had concerns about if the known utilization rates for washing machines in single-family residences can be reliably used for the dorms.
* A suggestion was made that a residents-to-machine ratio for Jesse and Aber Halls could be used to assess their assumptions
* The committee would like more information about the energy cost savings calculator used, particularly if it takes into account electricity rates in Montana.  It is important for the RELF and to those agreeing to payback terms that we have the best estimates that we can feasibly obtain.
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| **Other Items**  |
| * Patrick and Jake said Rosi will decide on a low interest loan rate if necessary. Discussion was had if this would effect the proposals. Currently, none of the proposals accounted for interest. Jake said in the future students can do simple interest rate equations to include in their proposal.
* Robin was concerned that not many proposals were submitted. The group decided that more outreach to campus needs to happen for the next round. We can contact professors in Business, Economics, the Sciences and COT to include RELF as class assignments. This would need to be done by the end of this semester.
* We can set up a workshop open to the campus. This would showcase the funded projects and introduce more people to RELF. Good publicity for the fund.
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| **Next Steps**  |
| * The Committee agreed that we would like to invite the applicants to the next RELF meeting. Robin and Erica will e-mail the groups with questions and comments. The applicants can come prepared to the meeting to answer the questions and make a case for their proposal.
* The final decisions will be made by April 30th. At that point the fund will be in the hands of Rosi Keller and Residence Life.
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| **Next Meeting**  |
| * Please fill out the Doodle poll to schedule the meeting for next week.
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