

KRELf Committee Meeting April 9, 2012 UC 327 1:30-3:00PM

Members Present: Rosi Keller, Tom Javins, Luke Sims, Stacy Boman, Len Broberg, Dennis Daneke, Robin Saha

Members absent: Clay Springmeyer, Emerald LaFortune, Bryan Nickerson

Guests Present: Zach Brown

1. Review of KRELf financials – Rosi Keller, Administration and Finance
 - a. Rosi Keller presented the current fund balance, loans granted and repaid, and grants awarded to date. Rosie cautions that as the fund is continuing to accumulate funds, we now need to rethink how the fund is operating to best utilize the funds.
 - b. There are three years remaining on the fund before it sunsets. Often funds are renewed beyond sunset clause if it functioning to the students' expectations and there is a willingness to continue the fund.
 - c. Rosi suggests that we amend the bylaws to establish that after the fund reaches a certain balance, a higher percentage of the fund be available for grants.
2. Fund projections under different scenarios – Robin S.
 - a. From preliminary analysis, Robin believes that allocating large grant funds to the Smart Buildings Initiative would not significantly deplete the fund balance as student fees will continue build up the fund balance
 - b. Rough estimates show that 25% of students opting out of the sustainability fee.
3. KRELf investment in Smart Building Initiative- Zach B. and Rosi K.
 - a. The Board of Regents has identified energy efficiency as a Montana University System and will be addressing the accounting methods so that when energy cost savings are realized, the university is not able to retain those financial savings.
 - b. At that last Board of Regents meetings, the Board was unanimously excited about this project and the importance of energy and cost savings generated from energy efficient buildings. A significant reason why the BOR and Office of Commissioner of Higher Education are so supportive is that the campaign initiated with the students and is driven by students.
 - c. Rosi has worked to identify funding for the full \$300,000 needed to fund the real-time energy monitoring data necessary to improve energy efficiency, including a commitment of \$100,000 from KRELf. Including student funds in this campaign is a key demonstration that students are supporting and driving this effort.
 - d. Len Broberg is concerned about spending student funds that were as originally voted on through student body election as a revolving loan fund and spending them as grants. Robin Saha has a similar concern. Tom Javins also has this concern.
 - e. Robin suggests a bylaw amendment that sets a lump sum aside for special allocation and leave the grant/loan fund percentages as written in the bylaws. Robin invites committee members to draft bylaw changes to this effect, asking Luke Sims to draft such a clause.
4. Preparations for spring proposal review –Stacy B. and Robin

- a. Stacy and Robin will assign proposals to subcommittees by April 20th. We will all have a committee meeting to vote on the proposals the first week of May.
5. Update on calculating cumulative energy, emissions, and cost savings – Robin
 - a. Robin has a student working on this.
6. Report (and funding request) from KRELf outreach subcommittee – Emerald L., Bryan N., and Ada M.
 - a. Not much has happened since the last meeting. We will vote by email on fund allocation for a poster / brochure development for Earth Week.
7. Expiration of KRELf chair term – Robin
 - a. Robin has been the KRELf Chair for three years. He will be on sabbatical next year. We will need a new chairperson next year.