** WSU Student Green Fee**

**Report 1**

**March 17, 2017**

The Sustainability Committee reviewed the first Student Green Fee project proposals at the March 17, 2017 meeting. Five projects were considered and four student members of the committee were present at this meeting.

The following Projects have been approved.

1. ***SEED Garden***
   1. **Author(s):**

Jackson Ramsland, student

Jon Mauser, Chemistry professor, faculty advisor

* 1. **Amount Requested**:

$8,000

* 1. **Summary:**

The Winona State University Sustainable-Edible-Education-Discovery (SEED) Garden will be a student-run initiative that will work to grow a wide array of fruits, vegetables, and herbs. The SEED Garden team hopes that we can work with the Warrior Cupboard in order to use the harvest to feed students that need access to high quality, locally grown food. This volunteer supported garden will be able to grant students valuable experience in urban agriculture, while also promoting positive habits such as good nutrition and active lifestyle pursuits. The SEED Garden will also offer new opportunities for student engagement in classes, being included in new curriculum. Overall, the WSU SEED Garden has great potential to have an overwhelmingly positive impact on the Winona State community.

* 1. **Review:**

Great idea - and a good, small start to what should be a long-term project with great benefits to the WSU community. The desire for a community garden on campus has been there for quite some time. It will be a visible reminder to the whole community that we are indeed a school committed to sustainability.

* 1. **Award Decision:**

**Approve** for $7,204

1. ***Mall Area Recycling Bins***
   1. **Author(s):**

Lisa Pearson, Landscape and Arboretum Director

* 1. **Amount Requested**:

$9,725

* 1. **Summary:**

The Sustainability Committee Recycling work group worked together and Facilities maintenance and Arboretum staff to determine features that WSU would want in exterior trash and recycling receptacles. Housing and Facilities staff surveyed the campus to determine the best locations of these and evaluated current locations and evaluated if they or nearby areas were the best sites for easy use and most efficient use by students and staff. We narrowed the preferred receptacle to be provided by a local vendor and visited their manufacturing facility to examine the options and quality of the receptacles. A paired trash-recycling receptacle was chosen and the vendor agreed on suggestions for improvements for functionality and added our Flaming W logo to the front face. Several were ordered for housing and the student union, however there are not funds to purchase any for the central main campus mall where students regularly hang out to study, socialize or cross to get to and from classes. We are requesting purchasing 5 receptacles for our central mall area to help make our new recycling program more successful and promote this program in a highly visible area of campus.

* 1. **Review:**

This project represents a long overdue step in waste management on campus. It will send a strong message to students and visitors on campus that we do indeed recycle. It has the potential to result in significant reduction in our waste and the tipping charges we incur for waste.

* 1. **Award Decision:**

**Approve** for $9,725

1. ***Water Bottles for Incoming Students***
   1. **Author(s):**

Chris Veeder, student

Wayne Wicka, Advising Services Program Coordinator, staff advisor

* 1. **Amount Requested**:

$2,499.58

* 1. **Summary:**

As part of supporting Winona State University’s commitment to sustainability, the Orientation Committee has decided to incorporate green initiatives into the 2017 Welcome Week and orientation program. To do this, we intend to provide each incoming student with a high quality, reusable water bottle. We estimate that 1,800 water bottles would cost $2,500. The goal of the project is to demonstrate WSU’s commitment to sustainability and encourage new students to establish habits that decrease their carbon footprint. After implementing a similar initiative during the 2016 Welcome Week, from a WSU Foundation grant, we have found wide-ranging support to recommit to this project.

* 1. **Review:**

This is a good, highly-visible project that supports our sustainability mission. It tells our incoming students that we support sustainability initiatives.

There are two concerns, however. One is how this project can be sustained beyond this next year. The other is about the information incoming students receive about refilling stations vs. bottled water on campus.

* 1. **Award Decision:**

**Approve with conditions**, for $2,500

Conditions:

1. A small flyer should be created and attached to each new water bottle that provides information about benefits of using refilling stations on campus vs. bottled water. Flyer should also indicate water bottles are provided by Student Green Fee.
2. A plan to assess effectiveness of new water bottles should be put in place, e.g., a survey asking students how often they used the water bottles, if they liked them, etc. The assessment plan should generate results that could be used for funding requests in the future to support this project.