

SSC Biweekly Meeting
Thursday, November 29, 2018
Location: NSRC 358

Student Attendees: Zishen Ye, John Uelmen, Julia Marsaglia, Adrian Chendra, Jack Javer, Sarah Gediman, Gabriel Mishaan

Advisor Attendees: Morgan White, BK Sharma, Kristine Chalifoux, Cathy Liebowitz

Meeting Minutes

Topics for Discussion:

- Step 2 Details
- Microgrant Voting
- Discussion on fee increase

9:00am: Meeting start

- Reminder that the Step 2 voting meeting is December 8th, starting at 1pm in NSRC 240
- We're aiming to spend \$500k-\$600k this fall. We've already allocated \$36,370 to four student-led projects. We received \$1,693,039 in requests at Step 2 for 19 projects.
- All projects are funded, deferred to spring Step 2, or declined.
- There is no Google excel sheet for Step 2.
- There are working group meetings next week. If you need/want to discuss any projects, attend these meetings. Working groups are meant for discussion and clarification. Applicants may attend the working group meetings, but they aren't required to attend. Thus, there isn't a presentation schedule. The only group I know that is attending a meeting is the CIF Geothermal project at Friday's energy group.
- You should go into the voting meeting with the majority of your votes decided (totaling roughly \$500k for your approved projects). Please take the time to make a list with the projects you hope to fund. This will make the voting meeting run a lot smoother and we won't have to continually return to projects we've already discussed.
- During the Step 2 voting meeting, we will review projects by monetary categories, starting with the largest grant requests. The categories will be over \$120k, \$40k-\$105k, \$15k-\$30k, under \$10k. For example, we'll discuss CIF geothermal, E2E, and Plastic to Fuel. We'll then vote for the projects in this most expensive category. Once this over \$120k category is completed, we'll move into the \$40k-\$105k. We're doing it by monetary amount so we know how much we've spent as we progress through the meeting. We can go back if we absolutely must, but we're trying to avoid backpedaling.

9:10am: Microgrant voting - LED farming

- Discussion regarding grant proposal

- Strong outreach components and in a good location
- Low economic impact
- Great that it's student driven
- 9 in favor; 2 oppose
 - microgrant passes, will be funding this LED farming microgrant

9:21am: Discussion to increase SSC fees

- Needs to be approved by iSEE and Student Affairs
- Biggest feedback from them: where's the proof that the students on campus want this?
 - Suggestion was to create a survey for the campus to send out to a cross-section of students
 - Asking what SSC is, do they want to increase fees, etc.
 - Chancellor Jones is pushing for affordability; we need to justify why this would be an increase in fees
- Nationally, green funds are disappearing
 - But there are groups that have a revolving-door fund
- Could send this to a referendum, but you risk having green fund completely taken away (or approved)
- Note: we are the second largest student green fee in the country (for how much each student pays per semester)
 - Also note: the \$1 semester bike fee went through a long process; if we are requesting a small increase, it may not be worth going through this
- there is a recommendation document from iSee director on strategicplan.illinois.edu (scroll to the bottom)
 - you can send concerns, questions, or even call for a meeting
- would it be a good idea for SSC to generate a report based on our observations?
 - suggestions for what the university should be supplying for support
- SSC will create a subcommittee to explore options

Notes:

- Micah sent an e-mail to evaluate the iSEE director