

Annual Grant Allocation Meeting Notes

March 20, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was closed to the public and conducted over Zoom to protect Green Fund Committee Members.

Kendal Washington White, Vice Provost for Campus Life and Dean of Students approved the following Green Fund Committee recommendations:

GF 21.01 Cap and Gown Recycle Program

Project requested funding: \$11,700/1

Project Description: GPSC has requested money to start an graduation cap and gown recycling program to provide collection bins, and an initial stock of caps and gowns to begin a recycling program of graduation regalia for graduate students (which can often be cost-prohibitive for students). This would start with buying new graduation regalia and collecting used graduation regalia after events. Then throughout the year they will be responsible for cleaning and storage of the graduation regalia that has been collected which will then be distributed on a need based distribution.

Green Fund Feedback: I think the project supports sustainability initiatives on campus in a unique way. The project is a great way to reduce plastic waste and bring costs down for those who cannot afford graduation caps and gowns. I believe the metal bins are a large expense, but they will be a great investment if the project takes good care of them, stores them correctly over time, and utilizes them over a long time horizon.

Green Fund Feedback: I am worried about the project as the bins seem to be expensive. If the program doesn't work then you are stuck with expensive bins that have no purpose.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$11,700 for one year.

GF 21.02 Taking Our Sustainability Map Mainstream

Project requested funding: \$42,500/1

Project Description: The UA Sustainability Map online requests funds to improve the site through user friendly development and expand its current capabilities.

Green Fund Feedback: I think this project offers a high degree of utility for sustainability-focused students and student organizations. I like the ability of a one-stop solution for those looking to see sustainability efforts across the UA, especially with the impact it could have on attracting new students focused on careers or education in sustainability-related fields.

Green Fund Feedback: I am worried about the project, it is not very useful for students and faculty on an operational level and I think the investment is too large for the amount of

engagement it would bring for students. I think the sustainability map currently shows what the university does with sustainability in our community and beyond, but the expansion would not bring any more value to the community.

The Green Fund Committee did not recommend funding this project.

GF 21.03 The Bio/Diversity Project: Cultivating Environmental Leaders Committed to Inclusivity and Diversity

Project requested funding: \$45,300/2

Project Description: The Bio/Diversity Project requests funds to have student interns teaching and leading informational programming in underfunded K-12 schools in Tucson.

Green Fund Feedback: This project is very impactful and I have heard many great things about this. Many interns are able to gain valuable teaching and lesson-planning skills that they might not be able to otherwise get unless they are in an education major. I like that this project works with such a wide variety of majors and has been successful so far.

Green Fund Feedback: I like this project because it has proven to have an impact on community outreach in environmental learning in the past and is working to expand that outreach. The chance to educate children in environmental learning is something that I think is important. I like that it also sets a good example to the younger students to follow as they interact with college students. The aspect of preparing college students for the future by giving them the education and chance to teach has the potential to better prepare them for the future as well.

The Green Fund Committee voted to PART FUND this project in the amount of \$45,300 for one year. The committee encourages the project manager to reapply for funding next year.

GF 21.04 Increasing Water Accessibility One Bottle at a Time

Project requested funding: \$6,200/1

Project Description: This project seeks to purchase and install an Elkay water bottle refill drinking fountain on the second floor of the Nugent building. This refill fountain will provide chilled filtered water to students in the cultural centers located nearby and will reduce the demand/use on a Culligan dispenser located within a neighboring cultural center.

Green Fund Feedback: I think the project application was well written and will be a beneficial installation in the Nugent building. There are many people going in and out of the cultural centers and clean water is a necessary resource that they should have easy access to.

Green Fund Feedback: I think the water refill station will benefit a growing community. The project is straight forward, it should be completed relatively quickly.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$6,200 for one year.

GF 21.05 University of Arizona Community Garden

Project requested funding: \$7,267/3

Project Description: The University of Arizona Community Garden is working towards becoming less financially dependent from the Green Fund through the growing partnership with the Office of Sustainability. The garden will continue to function as a way of educating students, developing leadership, growing community outreach, and aiding in local food security. This grant would help the University of Arizona Community Garden in continuing its operations while it makes the transition of becoming more financially dependent on the Office of Sustainability over the next three years.

Green Fund Feedback: A couple things really stood out to me about this project: (1) it's been well-managed and continues to have an impact on students, and (2) it aligns well with the Green Fund mission in a very tangible way. While a lot of sustainability focus of late has been on sustainability-driven education or energy efficiency, this project really highlights the very simple ways we can be sustainable in our communities — by going outside, by gardening, by tending to natural spaces creating places where people can have human interaction. Most importantly, I like that this project is making strides in securing sustainable funding moving forward, boding well for its ability to maintain a long-term impact.

Green Fund Feedback: I am in support of this project as it not only has an impact on students but faculty, staff and the Tucson community as well. Anyone can rent a plot and grow their own food and I think that is an important skill to have. The project promotes sustainability and also helps foster a strong sense of community.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$8,600 for 1 year.

GF 21.06 Community Outreach in Environmental Learning

Project requested funding: \$50,000/1

Project Description: The Cooper Center for Environmental Learning requests funds in order to fund research-based projects in the Tucson community focused on sustainability and ecology. They are using these funds to pay undergrad and graduate student wages and tuition.

Green Fund Feedback: I think the project application was well written but lacks a way to gauge how effective the program has been in the past. I like the fact that there is an outreach initiative to cultivate environmental education, but it needs to be more focused.

Green Fund Feedback: This project has been funded by Green Fund in the past, but the impact that it has had seems hard to quantify. The project has many facets and aims to reach broad audiences, but this is actually a downfall for the project that seems to be stretched thin. I wish this project would focus on bolstering just a few areas and ensuring they are highly successful before pioneering new projects.

The Green Fund Committee did not recommend funding this project.

GF 21.07 Earth Week & Earth Day Environmental Expo

Project requested funding: \$5,000/3

Project Description:

Students for Sustainability and the Office of Sustainability are working towards expanding their Earth Day events from a one day event to a one week event known as “Earth Week”. This new event would work with campus cultural centers and organizations in hopes to grow their outreach efforts. This event would also include many activities, new panels, guest speakers, and professional development opportunities for attendees as a way to increase engagement on the education of local sustainability issues. In future years, the intent of expanding “Earth Week” will exceed the Office of Sustainability’s ability to support the program and will need outside support to continue growth.

Green Fund Feedback: This project really resonates personally with me. I think Earth Day is one of the most severely under-appreciated holidays, and it’s a great opportunity to raise awareness for general environment-appreciation in our communities beyond the sustainability-minded sections of our population. Earth Day should be an Earth Week — and it’s a shame it’s not every week. By expanding Earth Day to a week and offering activities and educational opportunities for students with the common thread of sustainability, I think this project can really promote mindfulness in the UA community, especially among those students who are less inclined toward green thinking.

Green Fund Feedback: I am worried about the project, because there will be no pilot for the week event in 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic and school closing. I do not feel comfortable funding the project without any pilot data. I am concerned that this won’t have a big impact on the number. This information could be used in the final report and to re-apply in the future to the Green Fund.

The Green Fund Committee voted to PART fund this project in the amount of \$5,000 for the first year only.

GF 21.08 Whetstone Prison Project

Project requested funding: \$84400/2

Project Description: Whetstone Prison Project is requesting funds in order to continue into Phase 2 of the original project and expand their environmental and food systems education to inmates in the prison system. Phase 2 aims to help inmates find quality housing, transportation, and jobs after their release. The majority of funding will be going to pay undergrad and graduate student wages.

Green Fund Feedback: I think the project application was well written. I also like that the project is receiving support from its department as this gives me hope for it's long term support.

Green Fund Feedback: I think this project is exciting and has a lot to offer by reaching out and including parts of our community who are often underprivileged and under-served. That said, I have one area of potential concern: the long-term financial sustainability of the project. Given the project requests a smaller amount of funding for the second year, I have hope this indicates progressively more budgetary independence moving forward, and I'd really like to see it operating with guaranteed funding from a reliable source.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$84,400 over 2 years.

GF 21.09 Integrating Research Into the ENR2 Rooftop AgriVoltaics Project

Project requested funding: \$30,000/1

Project Description: This project seeks funds to purchase sensors needed to begin research on the ENR2 rooftop utilizing the newly installed solar panels and gardening beds.

Green Fund Feedback: I personally do not think that this project is a top priority as much of the funding is going towards paying for specific sensors that one researcher wants to use. I believe that there are many other professors and students on campus that would be willing to begin some other type of research on the rooftop of ENR2 with AgroVoltaics and it could still be an interesting project.

Green Fund Feedback: I like the project and appreciate that it has received so much support from the university. For me, we have received a lot of funding requests for research work this year and this project was not more important than the others.

The Green Fund Committee did not recommend funding this project.

GF 21.10 Stand Alone Solar Demonstration Project

Project requested funding: \$15,500/1

Project Description: This project seeks funding to build a small, solar-powered building for educational demonstrations of solar photovoltaic (PV) energy. This project was originally designed as a mini-grant, and has since been revised as an annual grant in light of feedback provided by the Green Fund. The project seeks to purchase the building, then employ student workers to install the solar panels and other materials. Employed students will learn from the experience hands-on, while future students will also be able to learn experientially in formal class demonstrations.

Green Fund Feedback: I think the project application merits full funding as it provides storage space and educational value by helping students expand their solar energy education program.

I appreciated that this group listened to the GF feedback and came back with a stronger application.

Green Fund Feedback: I like the project and appreciate how receptive the project manager is to the committee. The final reports and progress reports are always done in a timely manner which gives me confidence the project manager is efficient with his resources.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$15,500 for 1 year.

GF 21.11 Green Reach Grant Initiative

Project requested funding: \$20,000/1

Project Description: The Green Reach Grant Initiative focuses on distributing small grants to school garden programs in low-income Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) and Sunnyside Unified School District (SUSD) through collaboration between UA students and the UA Community and School Garden Program (CSGP). Green Reach grants support new educational initiatives and infrastructural projects, such as pollinator gardens, chicken coops, and irrigation systems.

Green Fund Feedback: I think this project is great because it gives opportunities to not only University of Arizona students but other students in the Tucson community. This grant has always been successful and I have heard from other students that it was beneficial to their college career.

Green Fund Feedback: I like this project because it aids in funding K-12 projects that have potential for impacting various groups of students which is beneficial in community outreach in environmental learning. I also like that this grant will benefit the workshop interns who are gaining experience from teaching the workshops.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$20,000 for one year.

GF 21.12 Green Fund Outreach Coordinator

Project requested funding: \$64,700/2

Project Description: This project would hire a permanent staff member to manage Green Fund grant operations including follow-up with ongoing projects, handling outreach initiatives, and providing public-facing functions for individuals and organizations wishing to propose projects for funding from the Green Fund Committee.

Green Fund Feedback: I think an outreach coordinator for the GF would be very valuable in establishing institutional processes for each year, expanding our publicity, and hopefully raising more funds from outside sources, but the cost is very high during a likely uncertain employment market following the Covid-19 pandemic. I think if the GF restructures our bylaws to establish more responsibility across the fund, we could improve the fund without hiring a coordinator.

Green Fund Feedback: A dedicated staff member for the Green Fund would expand the board's capacity to create connections throughout campus which would allow a more representative pool of applicants. It would also be beneficial for the Fund to have a full-time staff member who would be able to dedicate time to the website and other administrative tasks. I think this project is important for the continued success of the Green Fund, and even though this grant wasn't passed this year, I would love to see another application like this in the future.

The Green Fund Committee did not recommend funding this project.

GF 21.13 A Living Laboratory Phase II: Student led research to monitor the pulse of the desert at Tumamoc Hill

Project requested funding: \$45,700/1

Project Description: This project focuses on connecting UA students to Tumamoc Hill and the broader Tucson community and providing students with experiential learning opportunities in scientific research, outreach, and communication. The core goals of Phase II of this student led initiative are to (1) conduct a one year study to assess the diversity, distribution, and abundance of mammal communities on Tumamoc Hill, (2) initiate a community science project on the phenology of Tumamoc Hill plants, (3) undertake active outreach to showcase research methods and results to both the UA and Tumamoc Hill walking communities, and (4) provide real-world professional experience and hands-on job training to UA students to foster communication and research skills, and create opportunities for networking with prospective future employers, with the public, and with one another.

Green Fund Feedback: I like that this project offers students a chance to perform research and learn about our local ecosystems, but it lacks the community outreach I would like to see. There would be engagement for the participating students, but it lacks interaction with the broader community. Another aspect that I do not like is the money that would be used to pay the salaries for the faculty and outreach coordinator as they are not students at the university. Paying the salaries of non-student employees is not something I would recommend funding.

Green Fund Feedback: I like that this project has a research component and integrates students but I personally do not want to fund faculty salary and would rather see that money going directly to students.

The Green Fund Committee did not recommend funding this project.

GF 21.14 University Green Career Days

Project requested funding: \$2,000/3

Project Description: University Green Career Days requests funding in order to host a career day on campus for students looking to go into sustainability after graduation. This money will go

towards paying for companies to be able to come as some of them cannot afford the entrance fee.

Green Fund Feedback: I attended Green Career Days in the past and really appreciated the opportunity to meet those groups tabling at the event.

Green Fund Feedback: I like how the Green Career Days encourages non-traditional career paths for students interested in sustainability. I am hopeful that Green Career Days will include more employers looking to hire students full-time rather than just offering internships.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$6,000 over 3 years.

GF 21.15 Solar Energy Outreach Program for Arizona Tribal Youth

Project requested funding: \$51,500/1

Project Description : This project would fund outreach, research, and educational initiatives in solar energy and sustainability practices for tribal youth. The project would provide on-site hands-on demonstrations in workshops, with a focus on solar and renewable energy. The program would aim to have a positive impact with tribal community members so as to encourage interest and pursuit of renewable energy sources and practices.

Green Fund Feedback: This project has the potential to have immense impact on the tribal community and the students and staff that will be involved. The focus of the project is to show how sustainable and self reliant these communities can be in the future with renewable energy.

Green Fund Feedback: I like this project because it offers environmental sustainability education to areas that have lacked this kind of opportunity in the past. This project has the potential for positive community outreach and education which is something that I think would benefit these communities greatly.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$51,000 for one year.

GF 21.16 Robert Nugent Building LED Retrofit

Project requested funding: \$3,100/1

Project Description: The lights in the Robert Nugent Building will be upgraded to LED to bring down the cost of electricity and improve the lighting in the building for both the administrators and students that used the building.

Green Fund Feedback: I think the proposal and budget were very well written and thorough. The project is a great way to start out the campaign of retrofitting buildings across campus with LED lighting. I like how the project acts as a way for FM and SFS to get data on the process on a smaller scale as they are looking to retrofit more buildings.

Green Fund Feedback: I'm a big fan of teamwork, and I really like this project for that reason. In establishing a cost-sharing partnership with Facilities Management and providing a thoroughly-accounted for budget, I'm especially confident in the prospects of success and the guarantee it can make a lasting impact on campus sustainability. Going from fluorescent to LED may not be the most ambitious, but I think there's promise in the scalability of the project.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$3,100 for one year.

GF 21.17 Campus Recreation North and South Gym Lighting Retrofit

Project requested funding: \$107,900/1

Project Description: This project seeks to replace existing lighting in the North and South gyms of the Main Rec. The funds will be used to purchase and install LED light fixtures.

Green Fund Feedback: TI would like to see this project eventually happen in the rec center but I am not sure that it is the priority of the Green Fund to be funding renovations for an institution that may very well renovate their facility in the next decade. The savings would not fund the project quick enough to render the investment critical. I also encourage the rec center to come back to the green fund with initiatives that would not be covered under a normal plan of action in the longevity of the institution.

Green Fund Feedback: I am worried about the project because the project is a very large amount of funding (would take up roughly 30% of the rest of the budget). Also, the project converts fluorescent lights to LED, while some other lighting projects are converting older lights such as incandescent to LED. The financial return would be seen over a 30 year period, and the rec center undergoes a lot of construction over the years so the retrofit could potentially not be monetized completely.

The Green Fund Committee did not recommend funding this project.

GF 21.18 Capacity Building and Expansion of Greening the Game

Project requested funding: \$41,100/1

Project Description: Greening the Game is requesting funds to pivot from their original operations by catering to more Tucson events than just Athletics. Greening the Game wants to start a new zero-waste service and expand recycling and waste diversion education across campus. They also want to combine GTG and Green Team to align their efforts and be more efficient with funding and people.

Green Fund Feedback: I have always liked Greening the Game and think that they have been an important part of Athletics and the university. I would love to see an expansion of their efforts but at this time I don't think that it is entirely achievable. With so many changes in the University and community, I think there needs to be more of a solid plan before any action can be taken.

Green Fund Feedback: I like the aims of Greening the Game, and I'd very much like to see those aims expanded beyond athletics. Zero-waste efforts are crucial to long-term sustainability in our communities. However, I have some concerns about the scalability of the project beyond athletics, especially in light of the project's reliance on groundwork laid by prior organizations whose efforts yielded underwhelming results. I'd like to see this project return with more assurances for success in its partner organizations, preferably with a more demonstrably successful pilot or trial period.

The Green Fund Committee did not recommend funding this project.

GF 21.19 Marroney Theatre LED Lighting Conversion

Project requested funding: \$99,600/1

Project Description: This project seeks funding to replace the incandescent lighting in the Marroney Theatre with LED lights. The proposal projects several positive outcomes from successful completion of the enterprise: (1) improved, updated lighting for the theater, (2) an impact on attracting theater/lighting students to the UA to use newer equipment, (3) community impact for people attending the theater, (4) reduced energy usage from incandescent lighting as well as reduced air conditioning usage in compensating for heat from the incandescent lighting, and (5) an impact on current theater/lighting students who will be able to learn from newer, updated equipment and have more applicable career skills.

Green Fund Feedback: The past Marroney Theater project went very well with increasing sustainability within the operations of the theater and improved the technical skills of students learning about stage lighting. This project will have environmental and professional development impacts on students using the equipment for their studies by converting the lights from incandescent lights (very old and inefficient) to newer theater light models that are more efficient and students will have access to newer technologies that develop their technical capabilities that are applicable in the workforce.

Green Fund Feedback: I appreciate the want to provide up-to-date and relevant training and skills for students in the arts. I think this is important for attracting and keeping students in this major and this will benefit both their education and the community. I also appreciate that this type of project is exactly what UA students determine are important for the Green Fund to fund. Lastly, I really appreciate the project providing information about last year's project in the Playbill. Anything that a project can do to help the UArizona Community see the work done as a result of Green Fund funding is very appreciated.

The Green Fund Committee voted to fund this project in the amount of \$99,600 for one year.