Meeting begins at 3:06 pm

Chair Aryeh
Vice Chair Beauregard
Co-Secretary Iniguez
Co-Secretary Heflin
Treasurer Slater
Public Relations Ng

Member Hurtado
Member Lewis
Member Rollins

7 members present. Member Rollins and Member Hurtado absent.
Advisors present: Chrissy Lieberman and Julia Rudnick.

Members of the audience:
Tara Doyle
Goggy Davidowitz
Erin Scott- Whetstone Prison Project
Kyle Kline
CJ Agbannawag

**Treasurer’s Report:**
Budget and refunds this FY21- $356,000
Rollover 2020 funds - $101,900

Paid out this FY21
Annual grants: $358,600
Mini Grants: $12,700
Overhead: $10,100

Available for mini grant funding: $17,300

**PAR T260 Whetstone Prison Project**

Request: Move the funds allocated for one .5 GA to one .5 FTE staff position for the 2022 fiscal year, feeling that a staff position is essential in managing the engagement between diverse
organizations, which requires a high level of coordination, as well as long-term stability to ensure needs are met for all of their stakeholders.

**Committee Discussion:** I support approving this Project alteration request because this staff position reflects the growth and success of the project and will allow the current needs of the program and stakeholders to be addressed.

**Committee Discussion:** I think this PAR is well thought out and shows a clear consideration of the Whetstone Prison Project’s current and future needs. I also think the inclusion of a letter from the current graduate assistant supporting the request to shift funding to a full-time staff member was especially compelling and showed the serious consideration that has gone into altering the project’s original plan.

**Vote:** The motion passes by a vote of: 7-0-0.

**PAR T263 Green Reach Grant Initiative**

**Request:** $90 to be moved from Student Employees (1340) to Grad Assistants (1190) $10 to be moved from Student Employees ERE (2117) to Grad Assistants ERE (2119). and $23 from Student Employees ERE (2117) to Operations (3000)

**Committee Discussion:** I approve this PAR because they submitted the request properly and were specific about the administrative costs needed. I also always like to support projects that pay their student employees.

**Committee Discussion:** I support approving this PAR as it will allow the Green Reach team to properly compensate their student employees for their time and hard work while properly allocating remaining funds to where they are most needed.

**Vote:** The motion passes by a vote of: 7-0-0.

**PAR T264 Stand Alone Solar Demonstration System**

**Request:** An additional funding year in which to complete the project due to COVID-19, and the reallocation of the portion of the budget allocated to hire undergraduate students to instead purchase and install fans in the demonstration building.

**Committee Discussion:** Though the PAR is a bit unclear, I support the request to extend the project and reallocate funds to their materials budget due to COVID complications.
Committee Discussion: While I would prefer to see more details, and recommend we follow up with the applicant, I believe the intent of this project is very positive, and they have valid reasons for requesting this extension. With that in mind, I suggest we honor their request and provide the funding asked for (knowing there is room for manoeuvre at a later date, which would not be possible if we denied the request).

Vote: The motion passes by a vote of: 7-0-0.

PAR T265 Solar Energy Outreach Program for Arizona Tribal Youth
Committee Member: I move to approve the PAR request GF-T265 for the Solar Energy Outreach Program for Arizona Tribal Youth, which requests extended time to coordinate face to face workshops which were postponed and delayed due to covid.

Committee Member: The actual request being put forth by this alteration request is not entirely clear, however I believe it may be deduced that they are asking for an extension on the project timeline. In this case I would approve a project extension specifically such that the original goals of the project can be fulfilled despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vote: The motion passes by a vote of: 7-0-0.

PAR T266 AGTM 200 Mock Roof Solar Array Project

Request: Extended time to coordinate face to face workshops which were postponed and delayed due to covid.

Committee Discussion: While the actual request being put forth by this alteration request is not entirely clear and stated in this summary, I believe it may be deduced that they are asking for an extension on the project timeline. If there is a way we could await confirmation from them before approving I would do this, however since it is our last open meeting I am unsure if it would be possible to approve now or later?

Committee Discussion: I think it's reasonable to deduce that they are asking for extension given that face to face with not entirely possible given the current environment that we're in. So I think that having these face to face demonstrations and workshops will be really helpful and how to create impact on the community and I support this PAR.

Vote: The motion passes by a vote of: 7-0-0.
GF Closing Remarks via Zoom transcript

Transcript from 4.30.21 Green Fund Open Meeting

It is with regret, but I must announce that this is a final meeting of the Green Fund, not only for this semester. But permanently.

Member Lewis: After revisions to the accelerating sustainability proposal, the money that would have been allocated to annual grants this semester, and all future funding from the tuition carve out, that was previously allocated to the Green Fund will be directed to the Office of Sustainability. There will be a new fund, called the sustainability fund that will begin operating next fall, with money from a $10 sustainability fee [per semester] that was approved by the Arizona Board of Regents this semester. The fund will allocate money both to large institutional projects, and they are also currently planning to incorporate a mini grant program. The board is structured to include undergraduate students, graduate students and staff board members. All questions about these plans and details should be directed to Trevor Ledbetter, [Director] with the Office of Sustainability.

Next, I just like to make a few more personal comments, the committee have asked me, just to make a few further comments. I'd like to start just by mentioning how I joined the board. I am part of the GPSC and was appointed to the committee, whereas other members of the board have been elected to the board. I came to the board via GPC, and so I felt the need to prove myself. When you're doing something like Green Fund you wonder, is everyone vegan, does everyone have zero carbon footprint? There's a need when you join to prove yourself and I hope I've done that through previous meetings and my behavior both in public meetings and closed meetings as well. I'd like to dwell on our successes as a board this past year. We funded mini grants, we funded PARS, as we have done today. And this includes vital pandemic supplies, given the situation we find ourselves in.

Then, as I've just mentioned, came a bombshell. We felt blindsided by the Office of Sustainability. And what has since been described as a hostile takeover their reasoning for this was their desire to accelerate carbon neutrality on campus, something we fully support. And they also questioned our lack of metrics, which relates primarily to projects prior to this fiscal year.
As a result, we feel aggrieved. We're losing our autonomy as a board of this new board that will not have the same level of autonomy. As I've already mentioned, there will be staff on the board, and the board will operate under the Office of Sustainability, whereas we have been proud of our independence, small project funding has until recently been in doubt, so I am pleased by that development that we have had reassurances that small project funding will continue. One of the concern is that advisory boards, as this new sustainability fund will be will be there to offer mainly advice, whereas we have had funding power. So for these reasons, we feel strongly against this proposal which felt less like a proposal of more like a fait accompli. Following on from that, we were delighted by the public response we had at the open forum that we organized a few weeks ago now. It was fabulous to hear so many people, so eloquently put forward the arguments against this proposal. We were hearing from people who have been involved in many Green Fund projects, over the years, people have been previously involved on the Green Fund board. We heard from Trevor Ledbetter’s predecessor, from the Office of Sustainability, and it meant the world to us to hear all this feedback as a result. We used some of his testimony in a letter that we drafted for ABOR. I believe that has since been passed on to various members of administration here at the University of Arizona, as they've already mentioned, this sustainability fee for $10 for incoming students has since passed.

And one of the latest developments that I wish to share with you is that just last week, we were told that we have the option of funding 2022 grants. Now we were told this last week, exams period starts next week, various members of the board are moving to different cities within the United States. And so we just found that, again, I must say, we found the offer to fund disingenuous.

I'd like to close by reasserting some of our successes as a Green Fund, over the last decade. Compost cats. Not only was that adopted by the Office for Sustainability, after our initial funding. They've subsequently signed an IGA -that is an intergovernmental agreement -with Tucson City, and they continue to operate at a larger scale. What was formerly known as Greening the Game that targeted Zero Waste at sporting events. The program started off just at UArizona football games, but they've subsequently moved to softball and basketball as well, doing tremendous efforts towards recycling. And one project that has already been mentioned this afternoon, the Whetstone prison project, provides inmates environmental education, with what is described as a garden based curriculum. Additional highlights, we have provided funding
towards the ENR2 building to fund student labor for garden work under the photovoltaic roof, which I very much look forward to seeing upon our campus. And our reach has gone beyond large scale projects, we've endowed smaller initiatives such as the SFS we provided funding for hygiene supplies distribution to schools and students in the Baboquivari Unified School District. And the extravaganza reusable menstrual products to campus members within the Green Fund that has always been room at the table for a vast array of students from a number of disciplines not solely environmental sciences, or sustainability and project types.

Despite the ups and downs of the past year. The legacy of the Green Fund will not be tainted. It should be remembered as an autonomous body advocating for student engagement experiences and collaboration in the sustainability sphere here on campus. Many iconic University of Arizona projects and features have stemmed from the Green Fund that acts like a Think Tank. And the Green Fund’s impact will live on in these projects. It's been an honor and a privilege for the students involved with the Green Fund for years, to serve a student body in this way. Going forward, we wish to emphasize the importance of the social pillar of sustainability and diverse student involvement in sustainability related decision making. And we will continue to be supportive of future sustainability programs, and efforts on our campus. Now it's rather invoke at the moment for people to be quoting Irish poets, and I found a certain quote that I think is rather appropriate for this moment. By Dylan Thomas, I'll just read a couple lines.

Do not go gentle into that good night.

Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Thank you.

Chair: Thank you member Lewis with any other members of the Green Fund like to make comment about the dissolution of the Green Fund future moving forward.

Vice Chair:
Yeah.

So, I, I hadn't planned on speaking at this meeting but seeing as this is the last Green Fund meeting of this year but the last Green Fund meeting ever. I guess I'll share a few words and looking, reflecting on the past year, it just seems that change is one of those things that's
inevitable. And I wish the process that that has led to the dissolution of the Green Fund could have been more transparent more democratic and more inclusive of the views of the community and stakeholders that have made the Green Fund what it is today. Well, I welcome some of the changes that have been made to the Offices of Sustainability proposal. And the sustainability Fund and the new board. All of those changes came about because of community members and this Fund speaking out and essentially being opponents and proponents of the Green Fund. And I think that's an important aspect of anything, any sort of fund that exists is having that input from the community and from stakeholders that that exists within the University of Arizona. The Green Fund itself has been pretty integral into my development as a person, as a scholar, and as a self-identified environmentalist, one of the PAR’s that we approve today was from a project that at one point in time, I wrote a few years back.

The Green Fund was responsible for funding my first job here on campus and getting me involved in sustainability environmentalism and sort of integrating me into where ever I go to school now for Student Affairs what the student affairs world is and why it's so integral to student success. That's all I really have to say it's, It is real, essentially bittersweet that this has to be the end of something, but I'm hoping that the beginning of this new direction for sustainability on campus offers opportunities for I guess a brighter future and brighter opportunities for the next generation of students that they come to the University.

Chair: Thank you, vice chair Beauregard. Are there any other members who would wish to make a statement?

Treasurer Slater: I can. And just like put it in the air, and then erase it from my brain. So, I will start by saying, I'm still incredibly disturbed by the actions of Trevor Ledbetter this semester. I continue to question his leadership in removing the Green Fund from our campus of the University that has millions of dollars invested in fossil fuels I think we have larger sustainability priorities than dissolving a student board that gives students an experience and provides our campus with novel sustainability solutions. I feel the move to dissolve Green Fund by the Office of Sustainability is a perfect example of changing, changing the rules of the game when the game no longer works for you.
If the proposed changes to the office were in fact novel sustainability solutions, we wouldn't wear the offices of seeing the ability with grants to complete these goals. And I also struggle fundamentally with the idea that centralization of campus sustainability is an answer to anything. A successful climate change mitigation strategy by a university or any institution should include every unit on campus and as many students as humanly possible, the consolidation of sustainability fee board with the ideas of what Green Fund has laid out in the last 10 years takes away from both the sustainability founders goals, and the Green Fund founders goals, small projects will now have decreased funding.

And while this is happening, the Office of Sustainability has increased funding, which, again, is probably for good things. However, I do question how we rank the importance of these different boards and organizations, and I don't believe that the Office of Sustainability has students best interest in mind, as I said, they do if they are so they student autonomy and increased diversity with multiple boards and multiple funds.

I will say that the passage of the sustainability fee is something that I am super happy about and I'm very excited, congratulations to all the students involved in making that happen, that accomplish. And I think I'm going to be upset about this for a long time, put a wrench in an already shockingly bad year.

I am super grateful for the time I got to spend with the Green Fund, the mentors and friends that I made, are will try to forget the opportunity to award annual grants that was taken from us. Sorry, I'm a crier. But reviewing and approving mini grants gave me insights into the needs of our community, and also gave me hope for the future and a relatively dark time in the past three months, we have been through the ringer together, and I'm so happy that I got to do that with you [the Green Fund Committee.]

Chair: Thank you treasurer Slater, are there any other members who would like to make a statement. All right, well I think it's been wonderful to hear from our committee members on the value and importance of the Green Fund. I wholeheartedly agree with everything that has been said. I think it is quite a tragic loss on this already, indeed, tragic several years, and I think I am hopeful that moving forward. Hopefully values will have time to realign. I would think. I would caution. Moving forward, those who claim that that centralization allows you to make more efficient resource allocation, would you think the same thing about policing. And I would
caution that if you are concerned about the autonomy of students making poor decisions for
campus that administration has made a number of poor decisions as well, poor decisions get
made at every level of judgment that every age group, and at every level of organization.

So, the subject of reasons so far that I have heard that we have heard for the dissolution
of the Green Fund. I am not convinced that there are any safeguards at all, against those kinds of
problems in the real world. But it is disappointing to see that the positives of the Green Fund, it’s
autonomy and its relative decentralization, its democratic accountability, that those are not the
aspects that are being prioritized in the next formation. If there are any members of the audience
who would like to make a comment, please feel free to. You may unmute yourselves, or you may
also raise your hand if you would prefer the more structured approach.
I will pause for a few moments.

15:40:04 Recognizing Erin Scott
Hello, my name is Erin Scott and I did not come here, planning to speak today. I have a lot of
frustrations and I'm very upset with the dissolution of the Green Fund board, but you all have
spoken to that very well. So, I would like to thank you all for your year of service. You all have a
very powerful important and honorable job. Thank you for being on the sport in the same time in
the world. You are greatly appreciated by the university sustainability community. Those of us
that maybe are not considered to be working directly towards climate neutrality. We see that you
value us, and we appreciate that. So thank you for all you've done.

Chair: Thank you, Erin. Goggy

15:40:56 Recognizing Goggy Davidowitz
I'm a professor and Department of entomology and are supported by to Green Fund on the edible
insects and using food waste that comes from the Student Union to feed the insects, so the
sustainability issue at the number of levels. Just want to thank the board and I want to thank the
Green Fund for the funding. We have, because of data that we've gotten from or through the
Green Fund grants. We've been brought in a number of other grants from the USDA and USAID.
And we're continuing to do that so there's a very long term benefit beyond the project itself and I
just want to thank you all for doing what you do. And it's as a faculty. I can't tell you how cool it
is to see when the students care and get involved. It's a really, really big thing so I just want to thank you.

**Chair:** The regular and final meeting of the UA Green Fund will adjourn at 3:42 pm on April 30th, 2021.

15:42:54 Thank you all for joining. And we hope that you will participate or help inform the formation if you contact the Office of Sustainability about the new sustainability fund, I am sure your input would be valued and appreciated and absolutely helpful.