

## **Spring Quarter TGIF Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Notes taken by Jewel Persad with the assistance of AI Companion**

### **April 25th Committee Meeting**

Attendees: Brian Graham, Roland Geyer, Megan McConnell, Michelle Shteynberg, Jewel Persad

The goal of the meeting is to wrap up the review of the Spring Mini grant applications and one of the Solar charging Winter grant proposals, which we have a tie vote on.

### **3 to 3 vote on the solar charging table project**

- Unfortunately, our AS rep for the committee, Madeline, hasn't participated in a while. She's not responding to my email, so we're kind of stuck in a... tie with six people voting.
- All three of our undergraduate members who cast votes voted yes for the tables and expressed value in the project because of the very limited study space on campus.
- Roland decided to change his vote from a no to a yes to break the tie, given the undergraduate student support for the project and that undergraduate students are the primary contributors to the fund.

### **Spring Mini Grant applications:**

The following three applications were discussed and the voting members on the call decided to vote in favor of

- AD&A Green Design Internship
- GGSE Learning Garden for Educators
- The Garden Project

### **SFAC interest in having a rep on TGIF**

- Everyone agreed it would be helpful to have someone from SFAC on the committee

### **Meeting summary for TGIF Committee Meeting (04/11/2025)**

#### **Quick recap**

The team reviewed funding allocations and voting procedures for these projects, emphasizing the need for consensus and considering environmental impact. They also addressed upcoming deadlines for mini-grants and planned to review final proposals in a follow-up meeting.

#### **Next steps**

- All voting members to add their votes (Yes, No, or Abstain) for each proposal in the spreadsheet by end of day Monday.
- Jewel to follow up with absent members to collect their votes.
- Jewel to send out an email on Monday regarding the mini-grant proposals.
- Committee to review mini-grant proposals at next Friday's meeting.
- Jewel to prepare award letters for approved proposals.

- Jewel to inform the committee of the final funding decisions based on the vote tallies.

## **Summary**

### **Project Status and Funding Discussion**

Jewel discussed the status of various projects, including the electrical assumptions, hot plate, gas water heater, and pool cover. She also mentioned the applicants for the biosafety project pulled their proposal due to budget constraints. The committee discussed the podcast, solar table, and the greenhouse and garden project, with some concerns raised about the feasibility and environmental impact of these projects. The committee agreed to add their votes to the proposals and discussed the possibility of further discussion on the yellow and orange ones.

Jewel discussed a grant for a solar table at building 434, which was funded by TGIF and matched by Veterans and Military Services. Jewel also mentioned a podcast project, which had been taken over by undergraduates and had a faculty advisor. The project had only produced eight podcasts and was seeking funding for student internships. Jewel suggested that the project's impact on the campus might not be significant, but the money would go to students. Katie mentioned a space where equipment could be rented, but the project team had faced issues with using the space. Megan expressed interest in funding the podcast.

### **Voting Process and Project Funding**

Jewel discussed the voting process for funding projects, emphasizing the need for a consensus of at least four votes to proceed. Megan expressed interest in funding a podcast project, despite concerns about its staying power. The team was given time to review and vote on the proposals, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for the next Friday to review the mini-grant proposals.

## **Meeting summary for TGIF Committee Meeting (03/31/2025)**

### **Quick recap**

The team discussed various proposals, including proposals for reducing electricity consumption, energy-efficient vacuum pumps, and LED projects. They also considered the potential of upgrading the RO system for in-house laundering, the waterless condensers project, and the status of various projects such as the energy-efficient biological safety cabinets and the pool cover.

### **Next steps**

- Jewel to follow up with the Clean RO Water Optimization project team for an update on their location and confirm they will be here next year.
- Jewel to check with the department about the high student wage rate proposed in the environmental podcast project.
- Jewel to ask the environmental podcast team if they've had any conversations with KCSB for potential partnership.
- Jewel to follow up with the Accessible and Sustainable Refill Stations team for any updates on location and confirm the project leads will be here next year.

- Jewel to ask Katie for an update on whether SFAC has made a decision on funding for the greenhouse project.
- Jewel to resort the project proposals and develop a voting sheet for the committee.
- Jewel to follow up with absent committee members to get their feedback on projects without strong support or opposition.
- Jewel to ask the Transportation Commuter Challenge team if they are willing to expand the project to include faculty and staff.
- Katie to present the data from the Transportation Commuter Challenge to TGIF and the transportation subcommittee after the project is completed.
- Jewel to include a condition in the support letter for the Waterless Condensers project stating this is the last time TGIF will fund it unless the project is substantially different in the future.

### **Summary**

Jewel presented a spreadsheet and discussed the proposals, including reducing electricity consumption, energy-efficient vacuum pumps, and LED projects. The team also discussed the landscape, stormwater, solar cameras, and electrical vehicle charging projects. They decided to eliminate two proposals from the running for funding.

### **RO Project and Waterless Condensers**

Jewel and Katie discussed the potential of upgrading the RO system for in-house laundry, which could potentially save water. They also considered the waterless condensers project, which has been funded twice before. However, concerns were raised about the ongoing funding plan for the project. Roland suggested that they could fund the project one more time, but with the condition that the project should find a long-term funding source.

### **Biological Safety Cabinets and Pool Cover**

The biological safety cabinets did not receive the expected funding, but the funds could still be useful for offsetting the purchase of the cabinets. The pool cover project was deemed environmentally meaningful and could provide visibility for the TGIF. However, there were concerns about the pool cover's lifespan and ongoing funding. Katie suggested that the project could be better represented in the outreach and education efforts, particularly in relation to the 1,000 users they work with.

### **Podcast Project Funding and Student Wages**

Jewel and Katie discuss a podcast project seeking TGIF funding. The project is an evolution of a previously funded podcast, now with 8 existing episodes and plans for 4 new ones. They note concerns about the high student wages proposed in the budget and decide to verify with the host department if such wages are permissible. Katie also suggests checking if the project is working with KCSB, which Jewel confirms is not mentioned in the proposal. In the meeting, Megan expressed tentative support for a project, contingent on the resolution of certain concerns. Katie suggested exploring the possibility of utilizing the AS Media Center for equipment, potentially reducing costs.

### **Refill Station Project**

Roland sought clarification on the nature of a proposed refill station, and Katie suggested a follow-up to confirm the project's timeline and the participants' continued presence.

The team agreed that it would be good to fund this project, with the understanding that it would be a pilot and they would receive updates on the location.

### **E-Waste Project Needs Further Development**

The group discusses a Furniture Services e-waste Process Improvement project involving the purchase of new bins for e-waste collection. They express confusion about how the project would increase e-waste salvageability and sustainability. The team questions the effectiveness of the proposed plastic bins compared to the current cloth carts and suggests that the project needs further development to better align with sustainability goals. The group leans towards rejecting the proposal, encouraging the applicants to refine their idea and potentially reapply next year.

### **Virtual Travel Proposal for Grad Students**

The committee discusses a proposal to promote virtual travel among graduate students. Katie offers to expand the target audience to include staff and faculty if the committee prefers. The members express concerns about the effectiveness of the program, given the small incentive and the importance of networking for graduate students. They also note that budget cuts are already reducing travel across the university. Michelle suggests including a larger audience, but Roland and others are not strongly for or against the proposal.

### **Expanding Transportation Challenge Program Discussion**

Jewel discussed the possibility of expanding a 30-day transportation challenge program to a 90-day challenge, potentially including faculty and staff. The program offers a \$60 incentive, but there were questions about its effectiveness in changing behavior. Roland suggested that the program could be beneficial if it collects and analyzes data. Mo agreed that expanding the program could be advantageous, especially for departments with mixed staff. Michelle expressed a preference for this program over a previous one. The team also discussed the potential for presenting the program's data to the transportation subcommittee.

### **Student Sustainability Program Dashboard Progress**

Jewel discussed the progress of the student sustainability program dashboard, which is being built to host student sustainability projects. There were concerns about duplication and coordination with other websites. Mo expressed interest in funding the project, seeing it as a valuable tool for information sharing and building on past projects. Michelle agreed, noting its potential to inspire and guide new students. Roland suggested that the project's success depends on its maintenance, and Jewel clarified that the student affairs department would maintain the site, adding new projects each year.

### **Greenhouse Project Funding and Utilization**

Roland, Jewel, Mo, and Michelle discussed the \$1 million greenhouse project. Roland expressed concerns about the project's cost and timing, given the current belt tightening.

Michelle suggested providing education and outreach to increase student awareness and utilization of the greenhouse. The group also discussed the Student Fee Advisory Committee's potential funding for the project.

The conversation ended with Jewel planning to develop a sheet for voting and follow-up on remaining questions.