

## Winter Quarter TGIF Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting summaries were taken by AI Companion and edited by Jewel Persad

### Meeting summary for TGIF Committee Meeting (03/10/2025)

Attendees: Jewel Persad, Andrew Riley, Akshaya Jagannathan, Brian Graham, Roland Geyer, Katie Maynard, Michelle Shteynberg

#### Quick recap

Discussions centered around funding considerations for off-campus events, the feasibility of implementing a farmers market in Isla Vista, and improvements to e-waste collection and recycling processes. The team also revisited proposals that were initially reviewed at the first TGIF committee meeting. The plan is to finalize the list of approved projects by the end of April.

#### Proposal Review and Discussion

- **Concert for the Coast** - The team discussed concerns about funding an off-campus event, TGIF, due to its lack of direct connection to the UC mission. They also raised questions about the use of funds for non-UC projects and the timeline for releasing funds. The team agreed that the event, while well-attended, is not a high priority for funding. Katie suggested revisiting the timeline for project funding and providing clearer guidance to applicants. Jewel confirmed that the timeline for awarding grants is consistent and communicated in the application.
- **Farmers Market Proposal** - Jewel provided an overview of the farmers market proposal, highlighting the request for TGIF funding to cover logistical costs, permits, insurance, and marketing. Katie expressed concerns about the timeline, equipment purchases, and the lack of a department host. She also noted a shift in Isla Vista's market, with the IV Market potentially cutting down its produce selection and the Isla Vista food Co-OP facing financial difficulties. Katie suggested that the proposal might be more viable if it had a solid plan through the next year. The Team discussed the challenges of implementing a farmers market in Isla Vista. They noted the need for insurance, support from local organizations. The team agreed that while the idea of a farmers market is appealing, it would require significant resources and support to be successful. The team would consider a future proposal if there were a strong institutional partner. The team also discussed the challenges of fresh produce demand in Isla Vista and the struggle of local programs to compete with larger stores. Michelle suggested that many students have cars, which could affect local shopping.
- **E-Waste Collection System Improvement Proposal** - Brian explained the existing e-waste collection system and the proposed improvements, including purchasing specific e-waste collection carts and hiring student workers. Brian let the group know that he oversees Furniture Services and would therefore recuse himself from voting on this proposal. Brian discussed the challenges of recycling e-waste, including the cost of collection and the need to maximize resale value. He described the proposed plan to

use bins at loading docks to collect e-waste, which would then be picked up by furniture services and surplus sales. The bins would be placed at loading docks with official signage. The proposal was met with some skepticism, with concerns raised about the effectiveness of the bins in protecting electronics and the potential for damage during transport. The committee members agreed to consider the proposal further, with a focus on how it could be integrated with existing e-waste collection systems.

- The committee wrapped up the initial review of all the proposals and revisited the first three proposals to review the question responses from the applicants.
  - The team agreed that the hot plate project and the vacuum pump project were a good fit for TGIF
  - The team also discussed a cleaning RO water optimization project for on-site laundering, with concerns about the efficiency of the RO system and the waste associated with contracting out laundry services.

### **Next steps**

- Jewel to ask Rachel about the water usage for contracted laundry services in the RO water optimization project.
- Jewel to follow up with Rachel on how the RO water optimization project would reduce overall water use.
- Jewel to send a follow-up email for committee members to review the updated waterless condensers proposal before the next meeting.
- Jewel to ask the waterless condensers project team about their long-term funding plan.
- Committee members to complete the When2Meet survey for scheduling April meetings if they haven't already done so.
- Jewel to schedule weekly meetings for April based on the When2Meet results.

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

Attendees: Jewel Persad, Akshaya Jagannathan, Brian Graham, Katie Maynard, Lauren Londoño, Megan McConnell, Mo Lovegreen

### **Quick recap**

The meeting focused on reviewing and discussing various project proposals, including wildlife camera replacement, environmental research, podcasting, solar tables, and campus sustainability initiatives. The team debated the merits and concerns of each proposal, considering factors such as cost, environmental impact, and alignment with their mission. They agreed to follow up on several projects for more information and to make final funding decisions in future meetings.

### **Proposal Review and Discussion**

- **Solar-Powered Wildlife Camera Proposal** - The team discussed a proposal from a site about an hour away from campus to replace wildlife cameras damaged in a fire with solar-powered ones. They debated the cost and environmental impact of the

solar-powered cameras, with Mo suggesting that the solar component was the main selling point. They also considered the potential for collaboration with the Environmental Action Board (EAB) to share wildlife pictures. Jewel agreed to follow up on the cost differences, the quality of the pictures, and the potential for EAB collaboration.

- **Applied Research for Stormwater Mitigation** - Megan discussed a research proposal that she was unsure about funding and found interesting. Jewel clarified that the proposal was for applied research and had support letters from EH&S and CCBER, to inform mitigation efforts. Mo suggested connecting with Renee's team to apply the findings to new projects. Brian agreed, noting the importance of stormwater mitigation in major capital projects. Jewel will follow up with relevant committees to ensure support for the project.
- **UC Podcast Project Funding** - Lauren discussed an all-podcast project sponsored by the Bren comm group, aiming to amplify environmental research by interviewing faculty and graduate students. The project, which claimed it hadn't received funding in the past, is seeking support for software and operational costs. Jewel raised concerns about potential duplication with a previously funded project, and the need for more quantitative data on viewership and episode numbers. Megan suggested considering a scaled-back approach to make the project more feasible. The team agreed to follow up with the project team for more information.
- **Solar Charging Tables** - Jewel led a discussion about potential funding for additional solar charging tables at building 434. Megan expressed her support for the solar table project, while Brian suggested considering the funding for the Engineers Without Borders project. Jewel agreed to follow up on the Engineers Without Borders project and to analyze the available funding for the solar table project. The team also discussed the possibility of funding the solar table project if there is extra funding available.
- **Theater Energy-Efficient Washer & Dryer** - The team discussed the proposal to replace the old washer and dryer at the theater with new energy-efficient models. They considered whether the replacement would occur regardless of funding, and whether they should offer a rebate to cover the cost of energy-efficient appliances. The team also discussed the potential impact on labor, with the current setup requiring multiple loads to be washed at once. They are leaning towards offering a 30-40% rebate to help with the costs of water and energy efficiency.
- **Hygiene Product Refill Station Project** - Katie and Jewel discussed a proposed project to establish a refill station for hygiene products on campus, funded by a grant. They expressed concerns about the project's timeline, logistics, and partnerships, particularly the lack of a confirmed location and the absence of a clear implementation plan. They suggested that the project might be better suited for the following year, once the necessary partnerships and space are secured. Brian suggested exploring the new Mission Refill store in Goleta as a potential model for the project. The team agreed to

follow up with the project's primary contacts to clarify the timeline and implementation plan.

- **Concert for the Coast Funding** - The committee discusses the Concert for the Coast event organized by Surfrider. While the event has educational components, concerns are raised about its alignment with TGIF's mission and funding restrictions for fundraisers. The committee also notes that the event's timeline doesn't match TGIF's funding schedule. They decided to review more proposals next week and plan to categorize responses before making final funding decisions.

## **Meeting summary for TGIF Committee Meeting (02/24/2025)**

Attendees: Jewel Persad, Andrew Riley, Akshaya Jagannathan, Roland Geyer, Lauren Londoño, Michelle Shteynberg, Mo Lovegreen

### **Quick recap**

The team discussed proposals for expanding remote professional development opportunities, increasing alternative transportation, and funding a program to incentivize carpooling and public transportation. They also reviewed a proposal for a new student sustainability project dashboard website, the challenges surrounding the greenhouse and garden projects, and a proposal for replacing gas-powered equipment with electric ones.

### **Proposal Review and Discussion**

- **Expanding Remote Professional Development** - the team discussed the proposal for expanding remote professional development opportunities for graduate students. The proposal involves hiring an intern to track and reduce travel for graduate students by encouraging them to network virtually. The intern would compile information from the program and conduct pre- and post-surveys. The goal is to reduce business travel emissions and provide more detailed information about departmental travel expenses. The team agreed that the proposal has potential for success but acknowledged that it would be challenging to measure the impact without more granular data. The team discussed the potential of organizing seminars to replace physical conferences, with a focus on graduate students. They expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the proposed model, given the importance of networking and travel opportunities for graduate students. The team also considered the possibility of targeting professional organizations and conference organizers instead. The idea of promoting more sustainable travel options, such as carpooling or using public transportation, was also discussed. The team agreed on the need for more data on conference travel habits before making any decisions.
- **Alternative Transportation Proposal Discussion - the team** discussed a proposal to increase students' alternative transportation. The proposal involves a 3-month model that incentivizes students to use alternative modes of transportation, such as biking and public transport, instead of single occupancy vehicles. The proposal is in partnership

with the SBCAG that runs CycleMaynia. The discussion also involved questions about how the incentives would be distributed, how trips would be verified, and the target audience for the proposal. There was some uncertainty about the effectiveness of the proposal, particularly in reaching graduate students. Jewel agreed to follow up with a few more questions about the trip verification and the incentives rollout.

- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** - The group discussed a proposal for installing electric vehicle charging ports in lots 50, 65, and 67. They found the proposal to be well-researched and detailed, and they agreed that it would be beneficial to collect data on the usage of the charging ports. Andrew questioned whether only students with parking permits could access the charging ports, but the group confirmed that they would still be the lowest charging rate in the area.
- **Student Sustainability Project Dashboard Proposal** - The group discussed a proposal for a new student sustainability project dashboard website. They expressed support for the idea of centralizing information about student-led sustainability projects, but raised concerns about potential duplication of efforts with existing websites. The main points of discussion include the importance of coordination between different sustainability-related websites, keeping information up-to-date, and ensuring seamless navigation between sites. The group agrees that follow-up questions should focus on how the new dashboard will coordinate with other sustainability-focused websites to avoid confusion and redundancy.
- **Greenhouse Project Proposal** - Jewel provided an overview of the greenhouse project, highlighting that it was built unsanctioned in the seventies or eighties and is now deemed unsafe and in need of reconstruction. The project is seeking funding, with an initial assessment suggesting a cost of \$800,000. The greenhouse is used by classes on campus and has around 1,400 visits a year. Mo confirmed that the project is currently in a Catch-22 situation, needing initial fundraising before proceeding to final design and construction. The project is seeking matching funds from TGIF and the student fee advisory committee. Roland expressed skepticism about the high cost, questioning how a greenhouse could cost so much. Jewel, Lauren, Mo, Roland, and Michelle discussed the challenges and uncertainties surrounding the greenhouse and garden projects. They expressed concerns about the high cost of the project and the lack of clear ownership and management. The group also discussed the need for a clear authority figure to manage the finances and make reservations for the space. They agreed that the project seems to be a small subset of the student body and that more information is needed.
- **SNARL and VCR Landscape Tool Replacement** - the team considered replacing gas-powered equipment with electric ones. The team questioned the cost savings and ROI calculations provided by the proposal, suggesting they might be overly optimistic. They also discussed the potential health benefits of replacing gas-powered equipment

### **Meeting summary for TGIF Committee Meeting (02/19/2025)**

Attendees: Jewel Persad, Andrew Riley, Roland Geyer, Katie Maynard, Lauren Londoño  
Megan McConnell, Mo Lovegreen

## Quick recap

The team reviewed several proposals, including energy-efficient biological safety cabinets, replacements for inefficient equipment, and the budget for proposals, with Jewel following up for clarification and further information. The committee also discussed LED lighting upgrade proposals, educational outreach, and a proposal for a new pool cover at the recreation center, expressing concerns about the recycling of old covers and the short lifespan of 3-5 years. In the meeting, Jewel outlined the plan for the proposal review. The team is to review the proposals beforehand and provide an overview during the meeting, open to broader discussion, and take notes on questions to follow up with applicants. The next step is an initial review of all proposals, with the aim of ranking them in terms of funding priority

## Proposal Review and Discussion

- **Energy-Efficient Biological Safety Cabinets Proposal** - Lauren provided an overview of the energy-efficient biological safety cabinets proposal from Environmental Health and Safety. This project targets biosafety cabinets with energy-efficient motors, which are more modern and compliant with current standards. The cabinet technology is no longer supported by the manufacturer and is considered obsolete. The team discussed the breakdown and cost requested by a proposal from the laboratories. The proposal aimed to incentivize laboratories to decommission and replace old, inefficient equipment with new, more efficient models. Jewel and Katie clarified that the funding request was submitted to Be Smart About Safety. Jewel agreed to follow up with the applicant to clarify their funding sources and the project's timeline.
- **Water Heater Replacement Proposal** - Lauren presented a proposal from Design Facilities and Safety Services to replace 550-gallon, 30,000 BTU per hour natural gas water heaters on campus with a more efficient EnergyStar-qualified option. The proposal would reduce emissions of natural gas and meet local air quality requirements, but would increase electricity costs as electricity is more expensive than natural gas.
- **LED Lighting Upgrade Discussions** - The committee discussed two LED lighting upgrade proposals: one for Hatlen Theater and another for the Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) Building. They generally support both projects, noting the energy savings and reduced maintenance costs, despite some concerns about the return on investment (ROI) for the first proposal. Megan suggests more student outreach and education on the environmental benefits. Katie and Roland emphasize the need for better education and publicity components in all three lighting proposals, as the current plans are lacking in this area. Jewel mentions she will provide general feedback to all three proposals from DFSS about expanding their education and outreach efforts. Andrew raises a question about the lifespan and potential refunding of projects, particularly for Hatlen and the pool cover, which have shorter lifespans.
- **New Pool Cover Proposal** - The group discussed a proposal for a new pool cover at the recreation center. They express concerns about the recycling of old covers and the short lifespan of 3-5 years. The committee agrees that while the energy savings are significant, the proposal lacks detail in several areas, including timeline, education, and publicity. Jewel agreed to follow up with the applicants to request more information and a more thorough completion of the proposal questions.

## Meeting summary for TGIF Committee Meeting (02/10/2025)

Attendees: Jewel Persad, Andrew Riley, Brian Graham, Roland Geyer, Katie Maynard, Michelle Shteynberg

### Quick recap

The team discussed the assignment of proposals for review, Jewel emphasized the importance of noting any conflicts of interest and the flexibility to adjust the review schedule if needed. The conversation ended with the team preparing to review proposals related to sustainability in labs and energy efficiency projects.

### Proposal Review and Discussion

- **Position Heating Blocks Efficiency** - Roland discussed the use of position heating blocks in a lab setting, noting that they are more efficient than direct heating surfaces. He expressed skepticism about a claim that these blocks could reduce electricity consumption by 50%, as he couldn't find any evidence to support this figure. Jewel and Michelle agreed that it would be beneficial to know the current and proposed models of heating blocks for comparison. The team also discussed the potential benefits of these blocks, such as reduced contamination in the lab.
- **Vacuum Pump Replacement Proposal** - The team discussed the potential benefits and drawbacks of replacing oil-based vacuum pumps with more energy-efficient alternatives in the marine science lab. Roland questioned the necessity of the replacement and the 50% reduction in power consumption claimed by the proposal. Michelle and Brian agreed that the proposal was well-intentioned but lacked detailed information on the return on investment. They also noted that the proposal was based on outdated estimates and suggested that the team should follow up with the grant application team for more details.
- **In-House Laundry and RO System** - The team discussed the potential of in-house laundry for clean room garments, the inefficiency of Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems, and the need for separate estimates for two distinct projects. They questioned the necessity of updating the RO system, given that it's not currently used for laundering. They also discussed the potential increase in water usage and the need for Energy Star and WaterSense-certified washers. The team agreed to follow up with Rachel and to ask about the current use of the RO system.
- **Fin Denser System Proposal** - In the meeting, the committee discussed the proposal for replacing single-pass cooling systems with air-based condensers, specifically the Fin Denser system. Katie and Jewel provided background on the project, which was initiated around 10 years ago to address issues with water usage and safety risks. The committee also discussed the need for a stronger outreach component to educate the science community about the policy against installing new single-pass systems. Brian suggested that fire safety reviews could be a way to enforce the policy. The committee agreed to follow up with the proposers for more information and to consider the proposal's merits.

- Funding Research Proposals - The committee discusses two research proposals. They debate whether TGIF should fund primary research projects or only implementation stages. For the first proposal from Dr. Lipschitz on green chemistry, the group leans towards not funding it as it is still in the research phase, though it could potentially reduce hazardous waste in chemistry labs. They decide to revisit the general question of funding research projects when more student members are present. The meeting schedule for upcoming proposal reviews is also discussed, with some changes due to holidays and member availability.

#### Next steps

- Jewel to follow up with the grant applicants for the "Reducing Electricity Consumption in Hot Plates Using Position Heating" project about the 50% electricity reduction claim and the use of PFAS/Teflon coating.
- Jewel to request more details from the "Energy Efficient Oil-Free Vacuum Pumps" project team about their claims of 80% less power consumption and why oil-based pumps were initially installed.
- Jewel to follow up on the "Waterless Condensers" project for more information on their long-term vision, education plans about the policy, and potential partnerships with LabRats or other groups.