GREEN FUND COMMITTEE 5:30 PM 10/13/17 S. KOCH

A research committee consisting of sustainability-related majors and club members from around campus is gathering on a weekly basis through the month of October to plan a new segregated fee that could fund sustainability efforts at UW-River Falls. Sophia Koch (cook) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 93 O/C: STD

SOPHIA KOCH: THE “GREEN FUND” RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT IN THE BASEMENT OF NORTH HALL. ON THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT THEY ARE REVIEWING WHAT THEY’VE FOUND OUT ABOUT HOW OTHER UW CAMPUSES HANDLE GREEN FUNDS. THEIR GOAL IS TO CREATE A FUNDING POOL SUPPLIED BY STUDENT SEGREGATED FEES THAT COULD SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED PROJECTS ON CAMPUS. MARK KLAPATCH IS THE UW-RIVER FALLS SUSTAINABILITY SUPERVISOR, AND IS THE LEADER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

MARK KLAPATCH: SO WE JUST HAD OUR FIRST MEETING ON TUESDAY, AND WE KIND OF DISCUSSED WHAT A GREEN FUND IS, UM, AND TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WITH WHY IT DIDN’T GO THROUGH LAST YEAR AND HOW IT NEEDS TO BE STRUCTURED AND THINGS. BUT ULTIMATELY WE DON’T KNOW A LOT ABOUT HOW TO STRUCTURE THE ACTUAL FUND.

SOPHIA KOCH: THE STUDENTS INVOLVED COME FROM ALL AROUND CAMPUS. MOST HAVE MAJORS RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY IN SOME WAY. ALMOST ALL OF THEM ARE INVOLVED IN SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS. ABIGAIL RICE IS A JUNIOR DOUBLE-MAJORING IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND CONSERVATION, AND IS ALSO PART OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLUB ON CAMPUS.

ABIGAIL RICE: AND, I REALLY WANTED TO GET INVOLVED WITHIN MY MAJOR, AND GET EXPERIENCE AND DO ACTUALLY SOMETHING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE ON CAMPUS AND TOWARDS STUDENTS.

SOPHIA KOCH: KLAPATCH ESTIMATES THAT THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A CONCRETE PLAN DRAWN UP FOR THE GREEN FUND BY THE END OF FALL SEMESTER. IF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PASSES THE PLAN, IT WILL THEN BE SENT ON TO THE UWRF CHANCELLOR AND THE UW-SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS FOR APPROVAL BEFORE IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. FOR FALCON NEWS, I’M SOPHIA KOCH (COOK).

The dollar amount of the green fund will likely run around five dollars per student per semester. For comparison, the UWRF website reports that students each pay five dollars per semester to support student media clubs on campus and two hundred forty three dollars per semester to run the University Center.

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