**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of January 31, 2019

Meeting began at 4:03PM.

* **Guest: Daniel Menahem, SPower (**[**http:///www.spower.com**](http:///www.spower.com)**)**

Daniel Menahem of SPower was the guest and gave some background on the company and its renewable energy efforts in Virginia. Some questions from the council involved efficiency of the panels and what they are made of (silicone). Most of the institutions in VA utilize sustainable energy; JMU and Eastern Mennonite were two of the first and initiated it on their own. Lifespan and disposal of the panels were also discussed. Richard Blair pointed out that any time a new building on campus is proposed, discussion right off the bat should be about renewable energy. The group discussed and agreed that the visual aspect of solar panels is very important. When discussing funding, one idea that came up was reaching out to the University Fund to earmark this type of project. The PCS needs to voice its support of this type of initiative the to the VP of Finance as well as President Paino, who has previously voiced his support and interest.

* **Earth Day**

Melanie and Mary are looking to recruit volunteers to assist with Earth Day this year. Interested in PCS and non-PCS members to assist

* **Climate Advocate Training Update**

Climate Advocate Training was held at UMW this past October, and now there will be a Climate Advocate Planning Meeting on February 21st at 4PM in HCC 210. All are encouraged to attend.

* **Sustainability Fund Update**

Thus far, there have been 265 submissions of the Sustainability survey; 83% answered Yes in favor of the “Do you agree with a Sustainability Fee?” question, while 17% replied No. Another survey push is recommended; the goal should be to get at least 500 submissions.

* **Bee Club**

Genesis was not at the meeting, but shared through email that she is working with students to start a club on campus and working on no mow zones.

* **FOR Wild & Scenic Film Festival/Interactive Artistic Trash Display**

Jeremy mentioned Friends of the Rappahannock’s [Wild & Scenic Film Festival scheduled for this March](https://www.riverfriends.org/events/). FOR is also involved with organizing a trash display on Ball Circle to illustrate/educate pollution affecting the Rappahannock River.

* **Better Energy Awareness & Mobility (BEAM)/Solutions to Climate Change Conference**

Liz Heras gave an update about BEAM. Eric Bonds had also shared through email about the Solutions to Climate Change Conference being held on campus April 6th by Fossil Fuel Free Fredericksburg. They were also having a meeting on 1/31 at 6:30 in the HCC. The main theme of the conference is through activism and citizenship, young people need to be the driving force behind meaningfully addressing our current climate crisis. High school students from Colonial Forge have been playing a big role in assisting with the conference; more involvement however from UMW students is essential.

* [**Tayst Coffee**](http://www.tayst.com)

Kevin has been acting as a liaison between the Bookstore and Tayst Coffee, a company that offers 100% biodegradable and compostable coffee pods for offices and businesses. The Bookstore sells coffee via purchasing coffee pods and making coffee through a Keurig machine. The current pods used are not 100% biodegradable and compostable; Kathy Sandor, Dir. Business Services, has indicated that for a while they have been interested for a long time in using a vendor that could provide compostable pods. She hopes to reach out to Tayst soon to discuss a possible relationship.

* **Action Goals/Participation**

Anyone still without an action goal should reach out to others to see what they can assist with.

Next Meeting – Thursday February 28th 4PM – HCC 307

Meeting ended at approximately 4:55PM.