**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of October 5, 2018

Present: Genesis Avila Lugo, Richard Blair, Eric Bonds, Kevin Caffrey, Brenna Creamer, Kelly Flynn, Pamela Grothe, Shannon Hauser, Elisabeth Heras, Jeremy Larochelle, Keith Mellinger (Guest), Melanie Szulczewski

Meeting began at 12:04PM.

* **Introductions/Background**

Keith Mellinger, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, was the guest for the meeting. A round of introductions took place and some background on the PCS was given.

* **Sustainability Fund Update**

The Sustainability Fund Survey has been posted in OrgSync. All members of the PCS are encouraged to share it with students. SGA has confirmed that they will send it out; Genesis has been working with them on this and Eric recommended calling them directly if she does not get a response. No deadline has been established yet as to when students must fill it out by; hoping to get a high participation rate. Melanie suggested faculty and department chairs sharing it with their majors/minors. The council provided some background on the sustainability fund to Dr. Mellinger who was unaware of it. Keith shared that highly likely Dr. Paino will be behind it if students are behind it. Group discussed table events to get a student to participate; that is being worked on.

* **Composting Update**

Eric provided some information on what Longwood University has done with regard to composting on campus. It involved obtaining a DEQ permit (not difficulty), purchasing a food pulper (UMW currently has one), and containers. The food is picked up 5 days/week by campus grounds/landscaping. Time/resources: 1-2 people/30 minutes a day so relatively little labor is involved. Longwood has screens to sort out non compostable items. They compost coffee grounds as well. Richard Blair indicated that should UMW go this way, we need the space for the compost. Eric and other members of the compost subcommittee will be visiting Colonial Forge High School on Tuesday October 9th to look at what they have been doing with composting; a smaller take on things, but one that sounds effective.

* **Climate Advocate Training Update/Citizens Climate Lobby**

Climate Advocate Training will be held on campus on Sunday October 21st from 1-4 in the University Center (Colonnade A). This is free and open to students, faculty, staff and members of the community. This training will help people learn how to write a letter to an editor, role play with senators, and other actions that one can take to lobby. A Lobby Day Conference is being held in DC on November 12th and 13th.

* **Sierra Club/Fossil Free FXBG**

Eric provided information on a Sierra Club/Fossil Free FXBG event on campaign planning and strategies to be held on Tuesday October 16th at 7PM. Contact Eric for more information.

* **Campus Dining Services/Choose to Reuse Issue**

Kevin relayed a story that Lil’ Joe’s in the University Center were not filling the UMW Choose to Reuse travel mug but rather pouring the drink in a paper cup to give to the customer to fill the travel mug themselves. After reaching out to Rose Benedict with Campus Dining, she indicated that this is not the correct policy and staff should be filling the travel mug and not using paper cups. She confirmed she will pass this along to supervisors to relay to employees working at the different dining sections in the UC.

* **Charging Station Update**

Richard Blair provided some updates and information on the car charging station on campus. There is one in the GW Hall parking lot, but it has not been in use these past several years. Richard has been in talks with the DEQ to be a part of [Volkswagen Charging Station program](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/virginia-to-spend-14-million-from-volkswagen-settlement-on-electric-car-charging-network/2018/08/09/0b54aa1a-9bf6-11e8-8d5e-c6c594024954_story.html?utm_term=.83fa838d8e5a). He’s also looking into other opportunities. Kathy Sandor has been working on a plan as well with regard to electric car charging on campus (schedule, fees, etc.). The ultimate goal is to use what we have without spending anything. Discussion took place around different issues and ideas with regard to electric car charging on campus (how many people on campus have electric cars? Can Parking Management provide details? Would having an electric charging station on campus influence the campus community to purchase electric cars?).

Next Meeting – Monday November 5, 2018 4:30PM Noon HCC 307

Meeting ended at approximately 12:57PM.