**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of November 5, 2018

Present: Mary Andrews, Genesis Avila Lugo, Richard Blair, Eric Bonds, Kevin Caffrey, Brenna Creamer, Richard Finkelstein, Jillian Gellman, Pamela Grothe, Shannon Hauser, Elisabeth Heras, Curtis Kasiski, Mackenzie Marbain, Brian Ogle, Melanie Szulczewski, Erin Wysong

Meeting began at 4:35PM.

* **Introductions**

With several new student members joining the PCS, a round of introductions were held with members giving a little background on their role/projects related to the PCS. New member Curtis Kasiski led a beekeeping discussion and mentioned faculty member Suzanne Sumner’s work in this area. Discussion took place on thinking of UMW becoming a BeeCampus. Other brief discussions took place on composting, farmer’s market work, solar panels, and the sustainability survey.

* **October Climate Advocate Training Recap**

Climate Advocate Training was held at UMW on Sunday October 21st and Melanie said the presenter called it the biggest and most engaged group she’s seen in Virginia. Approximately 51 people showed up and feedback from students indicated that they really enjoyed interacting with members of the community to discuss climate advocacy. Next goal is to be a part of Lobby Day in DC in June.

* **Sustainability Fund Update**

The Sustainability Fund Survey has been posted in OrgSync and Genesis and Brenna have been having tabling events to encourage students to complete the survey. Over 200 submissions have come in so far; goal is to get 1000 submissions. A few more table events are scheduled. All members of the PCS are encouraged to share it with students. Eric has been working with trying to get administration to send the link to all students.

* **Zero Waste Event with Fred Food COOP**

Genesis mentioned that she will soon be sending out details of an upcoming Zero Waste Event with the Fredericksburg Food Cooperative (<https://fredericksburgfoodcoop.com>). She also recently conducted a radio interview to promote sustainability events and initiatives.

* **Composting Update**

Eric, Brian and Richard Blair visited Colonial Forge High School in October. While their compositing program was smaller than expected, it was encouraging to see a school garden in a high school. After the visit, Richard took Eric & Brian on a tour highlighting lack of space on campus for composting storage. 3-400 pounds of food waste/day at UMW goes through the processor. The group discussed possible partnerships with other organizations in the area that may be composting (Geico, Mary Washington Hospital, etc.). The new waste management company that UMW has a contract with does not do composting.

* **Recycling Update**

Richard Blair gave an update about single-stream recycling not going to be taken anymore since it is becoming less & less popular. It is undetermined at this point what we will switch to. Many organizations in the area may have to revamp their recycling programs because of this.

* **City of FXBG/UMW Butts are Litter Too Campaign**

Richard Blair mentioned that the “Butts are Litter Too” campaign will be starting soon. Signs will be set up on campus. It is still a major problem on campus. The group discussed various instances of this littering on campus and possible solutions. It remains a difficulty issue to resolve.

* **Gardening Discussion**

Eric, Richard, and Brenna led a discussion on the success of gardening on campus.

Next Meeting – Wednesday December 5th 4:30 PM – University Center, 2nd Floor, Jamba Juice/Qdoba dining area.

Meeting ended at approximately 5:31PM.