**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of February 28, 2019

Present: Genesis Avila Lugo, Richard Blair, Eric Bonds, Kevin Caffrey, Kelly Flynn, Alan Griffith, Pamela Grothe, Elisabeth Heras, Mackenzie Marbain, Brian Ogle, Hunter Stephens, Jay Sullivan, Melanie Szulczewski, Chuck Whipkey

Meeting began at 4:04PM.

* **Carbon Pricing Endorsement Initiative**

Melanie shared information about the Carbon Pricing Endorsement Initiative (<https://citizensclimatehighered.org/endorsements>) involving efforts to have college & university presidents endorse carbon pricing/tax. Melanie will send the group additional information so that we can vote on it at our next meeting and then send it to Dr. Paino for his endorsement by April.

* **Solar Panels/Charging Stations**

Kelly & Liz shared with the group that they almost have 1000 signatures in favor of solar panels at UMW. Dr. Paino stopped by their table to inquire about the issue and expressed interest. He recommended they reach out to his office and set up a meeting with Paul Messplay, VP of Finance. Melanie added that she is meeting with Jeremy Vaughn of Alumni Programs to discuss this as well. The group had further discussion about solar panels on campus, highlighting and expanding upon topics we’ve discussed at previous PCS meetings. Jay clarified how at this point, all of the buildings on the main part of the Fredericksburg Campus are on one grid, so solar panels may have to be placed on places like the Tennis Center, Jepson Alumni Center, Stafford, Dahlgren, etc. The group also picked up on previous discussions about charging stations on campus and the cost and ownership of this project. Richard Blair informed the group that Kathy Sandor, Dir. of Business Services, has been working on this and is interested in making it happen.

* **Solutions to Climate Change Conference**

Eric shared info about the upcoming Solutions to Climate Change Conference being held on campus April 6th by Fossil Fuel Free Fredericksburg. 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. There will be a wide variety of speakers and organizations on hand; all are encouraged to share this event on social media. It’s a free event that individuals can register for through <http://www.fossilfreefredericksburg.com> or by searching for the event name through <http://eventbrite.com>. The council voted to officially endorse this conference.

* **Pollinator Garden**

There is a new pollinator garden on campus on the north corner of the Anderson Center. The group discussed signage as well as volunteers being needed to help plant. The PCS should be able to assist with facilitating this. It’s happening “soon-ish.” This discussion tied into previous discussions about Bee Hotels and becoming a Bee Friendly Campus. Genesis indicated that plans are moving forward to start a Bee Club; it is being brought soon to the SAE for approval.

* **FOR Wild & Scenic Film Festival/Food Waste Event/Fair Trade Campaign**

Genesis reminded the group of the upcoming Friends of the Rappahannock’s [Wild & Scenic Film Festival scheduled for this March](https://www.riverfriends.org/events/). They will be tabling for it on 3/14 and 3/21. There is also a Food Waste Event being planned for Sunday April 7th. Genesis also informed the group that Taryn Lemmon, the former UMW Sustainability Coordinator who graduated last year is planning to bring a Fair Trade Campaign idea to campus.

* **Sustainability Fund Update**

No substantial new update about the Sustainability Fund. Still have about 260 responses. While it would be beneficial to have more, there should be some urgency to get this to Dr. Paino before the BOV meets at the end of the Academic Year (late April/early May).

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