**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of September 10, 2018

Present: Mary Andrews, Genesis Avila Lugo, Richard Blair, Eric Bonds, Kevin Caffrey, Brenna Creamer, Richard Finkelstein, Kelly Flynn, Jillian Gellman, Alan Griffith, Pamela Grothe, Shannon Hauser, Elisabeth Heras, Jeremy Larochelle, Brian Ogle, Melanie Szulczewski, Jay Sullivan, Erin Wysong

Meeting began at 4:35PM.

* **Introductions**

Several new members have joined the PCS so a round of introductions took place.

* **PCS Constitution and Bylaws**

Kevin & Melanie reminded the PCS of key parts of our Constitution and Bylaws including membership and attendance responsibilities. This document is to be reviewed/revised as needed but at least once every three years. Kevin recommended everyone review it and come to our next meeting with any suggestions for revisions. Melanie reminded everyone that should one need to miss a meeting, they need to contact their respective Chair.

* **Thinking Big/Composting/Solar Panels**

Eric discussed the idea that this year the PCS should think big as opposed to focusing strictly on little goals (although little goals should try to be accomplished as well). Dean Mellinger is a proponent of composting and believes it is a possibility for UMW. He plans to attend a future meeting to discuss. Jeremy also pointed out that Dean Mellinger is in favor of solar panels. A new student club (BEAM – Better Energy Awareness & Mobilization) is planning on developing a petition and working on a goal to present by the end of the year. This is a continuation of the work that student Katherine Berry was working on last year with Dr. Chuck Whipkey. More information on BEAM can be found on Instagram (@BEAMumw), Twitter (@BEAMumw), Facebook (B.E.A.M. UMW) or by emailing them at beamumw@gmail.com.

* **UMW Peer-Group Sustainability Evaluation**

Genesis provided an update on the student fee survey. It has been updated to reflect what the fee will be used for and why we want to implement it. This survey will be sent out by the SGA (week of 9/17) with the goal of getting a few hundred students to respond. Discussion ensued regarding best way to distribute this (OrgSync). Group also discussed promoting the survey to increase participation/awareness. Eric reiterated the urgency to get this survey out there considering how long the council has been working on it.

* **Volunteer Opportunities**

Genesis pointed out that the Friends of the Rappahannock are looking for volunteers for the day before their October River Clean Up Event which takes place on 10/7. Volunteers would be needed to assist with table/event set up on Saturday 10/6. Genesis also pointed out that there are some elementary school volunteer opportunities through Tri-County/VA Forestry. Please contact her for more information or should you wish to volunteer.

* **Citizens Climate Lobby**

Melanie discussed UMW alum Stephanie Burns’ involvement with Citizens Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>). A Lobby Day Conference is being held in DC on November 12th and 13th. Citizen Action Training could be offered at UMW for those interested at no charge in order to assist those interested with gaining knowledge on how to effectively discuss with elected officials taking action on climate change. The group discussed the weekend of October 20th as a potential date for this training. About 10 interested individuals would be needed to hold the training.

* **Bee Campus**

Discussion took place on looking into getting UMW recognized as a Bee Campus. Different ideas were exchanged. A Bee Hotel for solitary bees has been established on campus.

* **Sodexo/Dining Services**

The council discussed various issues related to Dining Services on Campus. Melanie pointed out that the [recent article in the EagleEye](https://eagleeye.umw.edu/2018/08/28/new-campus-dining-features-include-sushi-paper-straws/) regarding paper straws and how this seemed to come about without any involvement from the PCS. It was acknowledged that it would be ideal to have better communication with Dining Services regarding sustainability practices on campus. It would also be ideal to have someone from Dining Services represented on the PCS (as well as from Athletics & Purchasing). Genesis brought up ideas regarding Food Sampling and ½ plates in order to reduce food waste at the UC. Richard Blair discussed the leave composting process and various ideas related to composting on campus. Storage/Transportation issues came up. Richard Finkelstein and Eric volunteered to look at what other institutions are doing and how they got started with composting.

Next Meeting – October 5, 2018 12 Noon; Location TBD

Meeting ended at approximately 5:34 pm