**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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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