**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of September 10, 2019

Present: Yasmeen Alhinty, Mary Andrews, Ankitha Anumolu, Richard Blair, Eric Bonds, Kevin Caffrey, Brenna Creamer, Kelly Flynn, Jillian Gellman, Alan Griffith, Shannon Hauser, Elisabeth Heras, Curtis Kasiski, Jeremy Larochelle, Mackenzie Marbain, Brian Ogle, Hunter Stephens, Jay Sullivan, Melanie Szulczewski, Chuck Whipkey

Guests: UMW President Troy Paino & Chief of Staff Jeff McClurken

Meeting began at 4:02PM.

* **Introductions**

With Dr. Paino & Dr. McClurken in attendance, Melanie and Eric gave an overview of the history/purpose of the PCS. Members of the council introduced themselves to the President and Dr. McClurken

* **President’s Charge to the PCS**

Dr. Paino expressed his desire to develop a strategic plan with clear sustainability targets, specifically with regard to reliance on fossil fuels. He would like the PCS to come up with a practical plan that considers/utilizes resources and research on campus and off campus. The PCS can come to Dr. Paino with any requests they need to achieve this. He is very interested in the developing targets that can be met; a plan is what is needed to get buy-in from the BOV. He would like then like to promote the plan and make it “high profile.”

Eric inquired about how technical the plan should be, to which Dr. Paino suggested looking at it in terms of phases. Chuck Whipkey asked about what administrators should be contacted regarding funding/resources (Answer: Paul Messplay). Melanie began a discussion on state restrictions. Dr. Paino explained that should we hear some responses that do not necessarily make sense we should come to him with them. Jay added that with a valid reason such as sustainability, the state may be amenable to making exceptions. Jeremy discussed the barriers in the past to accomplishing certain goals and confirmed the importance of institutional support. Dr. Paino indicated that Phase One of this charge may be to accumulate all the information/data as it stands now. Part of the practical plan aspect is to determine what is needed first. Some discussion of the Sustainability Fee came up, as well as sPower. When Eric brought up how aspirational the plan should be, Dr. Paino commented that it should be “realistic but ambitious.” Alan mentioned being able to submit other initiatives/plans (solar panels) to request as we work on the plan to which Dr. Paino confirmed that would fine. Dr. Paino is going to send this charge in writing to the chairs within the next week or so. The PCS should anticipate meeting with the board in the spring (Feb-April).

* **Action Goals/Attendance Policy**

With the President’s charge, it should not discourage members of the PCS from still working on action goals. Melanie went over the attendance policy/procedures if missing a meeting. Attendance is not mandatory, but contacting your respective chair is.

* **Upcoming Important Dates**
  + [Scheduled Political Debates on Campus](https://www.umw.edu/news/2019/08/28/umw-to-host-four-district-debates/)
  + [UMW Tree Festival](https://sustainability.umw.edu/blog/2019/07/25/umw-tree-festival-2019/) – Thursday October 3rd
  + [Walk and Pedal for the Planet](https://fossilfreefredericksburg.com/) – Fossil Free Fredericksburg – Sunday October 13th

Next Meeting – TBD

**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of November 7, 2019

Present: Mary Andrews, Ankitha Anumolu, Richard Blair, Eric Bonds, Kevin Caffrey, Brenna Creamer, Alan Griffith, Pamela Grothe, Elisabeth Heras, Curtis Kasiski, Jeremy Larochelle, Mackenzie Marbain, Brian Ogle, Jerry Slezak, Hunter Stephens, Melanie Szulczewski, Chuck Whipkey

Meeting began at 3:36PM.

* **Introductions**

The PCS welcomed the newest member (staff) Jerry Slezak to the council. Jerry is the Director of Digital Learning Support and should be able to assist with some of the issues under the Efficiency Subcommittee.

* **President’s Charge/Subcommittee Updates**
  + Renewable Energy Subcommittee

Liz provided an update that this subcommittee has divided up their work among themselves to research other schools, find out how much energy we are currently using (with Jay Sullivan’s assistance), and looking at grants for renewable energy and to see how that could be tied into courses and research

* + Efficiency Subcommittee

Melanie shared that their goals are to save energy and discover how to be more efficient using energy, water, etc. Idea is to come up with some different strategies to accomplish this.

* + Sustainability and Energy Connections Subcommittee

Kevin shared that they have narrowed their focus down to three goals:

1. Reducing Food Waste on Campus
2. Composting at the UC
3. Overarching Education/Teachable Moments to campus community about reduce/reuse initiatives
   * Transportation Subcommittee

Alan shared that the subcommittee has developed four goals:

1. Looking at the current carbon footprint from transportation resources
2. Identifying how to reduce this
3. Identifying peer organization initiatives
4. Creating outreaching initiatives

Additional discussion took place on a biking plan on campus and what has been done in the past. Richard talked about potentially looking at electric “golf-cart like” vehicles; perhaps some funding could be obtained for this. Richard also talked about the pros and cons of using electric commercial equipment such as leaf blowers, mowers, etc. on campus. Melanie urged this type of information to go into the plan that we put forward to Dr. Paino—what we are currently doing and where we want to go as an institution. She stressed that it is important for our plan to have:

1. Goals
2. Strategies
3. “An Ask” – what resources and staff do we need to accomplish these goals

Melanie also pointed out reviewing [NC State’s Sustainability Strategic Plan](https://sustainability.ncsu.edu/sustainability-strategic-plan/) as a reference.

Jerry brought up pointing out the connection between solar panel use and powering golf carts.

* **Next Steps**
  + Every subcommittee should send a synopsis of their work/plan to the PCS Chairs by Thursday November 14th.
  + The Chairs will review each one and put together one document to share with the entire council by the week of November 18th for feedback.
  + Chairs will meet with Dr. Paino on Thursday 11/21 to provide what progress/direction we’ve taken so far
* **Other Business**

Pam & Melanie shared that the Earth & Environmental Science faculty all signed for their support of Fossil Free Fredericksburg’s 100% Renewable Energy by 2050 initiative.

Eric & Brenna provided an update to the composting located in the Pollinator Garden behind Anderson. Discussion about further training/education so that in addition to coffee grounds and just a few individuals composting materials, the wider campus community would be able to do so provided they had some type of training on what can and cannot be composted. Recommendation made that signage needs to be posted for this composting area.

Richard mentioned recently Paul Messplay, VP for Admin/Finance, requesting for him to provide main sustainability actions they are currently doing.

Brian mentioned that at the next Staff Advisory Council meeting on Thursday November 21st he is going to advocate for them to official support the Fossil Free Fredericksburg renewable energy initiative.

Jeremy Larochelle reminded the council of the report Eric put together a year and half ago as a reference as subcommittees work on their plans.

Discussion took place on the status of the solar panel project on campus with sPower. Melanie & Liz are going to reach out to Jeremy Vaughn for more information on this.

* **Upcoming Important Dates**
  + 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action – Thursday November 21st – Digital Auditorium – 6:30-8:30 – Local Climate Reality Leader to present on the current climate crisis; panel discussion as well
  + [Butts are Litter Too Downtown Clean-Up](https://www.facebook.com/pg/umwsustainability/events) – Saturday November 16th

Next Meeting – TBD