**MINUTES**

**President's Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of November 27th, 2023

**Present:** Pamela Grothe, Kate Stoneman, Mary Becelia, Jeremy Larochelle, Brian Ogle, Holly Chichester, Anna Velardi, Diana Binette, Suzanne Sumner, Shadwick Yoder, Eric Bonds, Melanie Szulczewski, Lauren McDonald

1. **PCS Updates - 10-Year UMW Comprehensive Building Planning Committee**Suzanne Sumner is on this committee to represent PCS and reported on the committee work to date. They have had two meetings so far, mostly to establish timelines and subcommittees. There is a focus on sustainability within the maintenance of buildings and resilience in facility modifications to climate change. Suzanne is on the IT in the classroom and beyond subcommittee and the spaces between buildings subcommittee. They are meeting every other week. On Feb. 7th, their meeting will focus on Climate Action Initiatives, and members from PCS will most likely be invited to that meeting. A notable point is that the Governor/Legislators will not approve the overhaul of whole buildings, so any improvements will have to be partial overhauls like they just did in the basement in Farmer Hall.
2. **Climate Action Plan Status**
Alan was not able to attend but he sent along his message that he will be making the final changes to the plan for the BOV and sending it along to Jeff.
3. **SGA Sustainability Subcommittee**Shad said the SGA Sustainability Subcommittee is official now. Will Thompson is the committee chair. Those SGA members of this subcommittee are invited to attend the PCS meetings. This committee came about because the student governors want to prioritize sustainability on campus. The co-chairs agreed that it would be great to have a formal connection and communication with SGA. It was agreed that it was a great way to communicate and pass resolutions.
4. **Subcommittee Updates**
	1. **Construction and Operations** – President Paino appointed Brian Gorham, the Executive Director of Facilities as a point of contact but was told to not “bug” him too much. They are thinking of the next steps moving forward. The group agreed it would be great to invite Brian to one of our Spring meetings.
	2. **Sustainability Culture on Campus** – They are planning Earth Day. It will be on Earth Day, which is the last Monday of classes. This year it will be held on Alvey Green since that is the most trafficked area outside of Ball Circle (which will not be useable). They are also planning a Sustainability Study Break to build momentum on sustainability events on campus.
	3. **Research and Curriculum –** Theycontacted the Orientation Office to learn about implementing training on climate change and UMW’s climate initiatives for all incoming students. They are also working with Sandrine to learn about implementing some sustainability/climate change skills for students’ co-curricular transcripts. Lastly, they are researching models on how to achieve the work that needs to be done – who would be responsible for creating materials?
5. **Office of Sustainability Updates**

Holly is actively recruiting for Sean’s replacement. The job description has been rewritten to incorporate more facilities and energy consumption and should be posted in the next two weeks. They are hoping to interview in January. This position potentially would come with more leadership and thus a higher salary with the hopes that eventually they would be approved to hire someone more on the community campus and engagement side of things.

1. **Member Updates/Upcoming Sustainability Projects**

Eric brought up the Youth Climate Conference. He wants to make sure that it is well advertised and thus well attended since attendance last year wasn’t great considering the amount of work that went into it. There will be an official website – VirginiaClimateConference.org. Shad will help with advertisements to UMW students, both the event and proposals for presentations.

Eric also brought up the idea of a policy to leave more leaves on the landscaping on campus. Holly has followed up with Brian and mentioned safety concerns about leaves on walkways and moisture concerns for leaves against buildings. However, they are researching what other Universities are doing to alter their practices to be more sustainable. They are also looking to replace gas-powered small equipment as they age out with more sustainable options.

1. **Adjournment**

PCS co-chairs will be in touch in January about setting up the Spring meeting schedule.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:49 pm.