**MINUTES**

**President's Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of September 28th, 2023

Present: Sean Morrow, Kevin Caffrey, Pamela Grothe, Kate Stoneman, Carson Giocondo, Mary Becelia, Alan Griffith, Eric Bonds, Avery Dunkin, Brian Ogle, Michael Reno, Suzanne Sumner, Melanie Szulczewski

1. **Member Introductions**

1. **Climate Action Plan Status**
* A. Griffith gave an overview of the Climate Action Plan and the status of the plan today. The president does not want to show the full plan to the BOV, instead he wants them to see the carbon reduction action pieces and not the community engagement and curriculum aspects. Carbon reduction action items include Energy Savings Contract, EV charging stations, solar panels on campus, and an annual greenhouse gas inventory. Being cost neutral or cost savings in the long term is essential. The PCS will take charge of the community engagement and curriculum piece of the plan. Positive items that came from a meeting with the CATF and President Paino was creating a policy that requires everything to be viewed through the lens of sustainability before making any decisions or purchases, and that the President views the PCS as an extension of the Office of the President.

**Follow up Discussion**

* E. bonds brought up the point about how the University promised to continue the zero plastic policy but that there are clear examples on campus of how they are not following that, so we need to make sure these policies are in writing and enforced. Eric also mentioned it helps have an administrative pull in the respective departments where we would like to see change.
* A. Griffith suggested we could test this by writing a new policy with staff and see if it gets on the books.

1. **Subcommittees and PCS’ role moving forward**
* 3 potential subcommittees:
1. Sustainability culture on campus - includes a focus on Community and Engagement
2. Research and Curriculum
3. Construction and Operations
* A Google sheet will be sent out to allow members to sign up for subcommittees. Members can also choose to not have a preference and will be placed on the subcommittee with the greatest need.

1. **Call for PCS member to serve on the 10-Year Master Plan Committee**
* President Paino has asked the PCS to nominate one member to sit on the 10-year Master Planning Committee. The workload is unsure at this point, but there will most likely be twice-a-month meetings.
* It is expected the group will have a final draft of the plan created by early Fall of 2024.
* They are interested in ideas of the “spaces between buildings” and green spaces.
* Faculty or Staff members contact Pamela Grothe or Kevin Caffrey if interested in self-nominating.

1. **Member Updates/Upcoming Sustainability Projects**
* M. Reno inquired about student research on acquiring funding from the Research on Infrastructure bill and A. Griffith stated there is currently no student and thinks having someone look into how to find specific projects of interest would be most beneficial.
* E. Bonds asked about the updates on the three actions from the climate plan:
* EV chargers are in contract negotiations. As soon as the contract is finalized, we can coordinate and organize the installation of chargers.
* Energy Service Contracts – moving forward with Schneider Electric – they think they can convert the tennis center to carbon neutral.
* Solar – have a draft request for proposal but waiting to see what we can get with the ESCO and then will move forward with a request for proposal for solar; Brian and Jay heading those processes.
	+ M. Szulczewski inquired about creative budgeting like financing for ESCO but A. Griffith said he hadn’t seen that as an option
	+ M. Szulczewski suggested a student intern do easy energy savings, like weather stripping.
* E. Bonds: Announced that the city’s Clean and Green Commission is hiring a student intern and will send around that announcement.
* Trick or Trash, the candy wrapper recycling program, will be returning this year. Announcements on where/when the box will be placed is TBD, but will be promoted on Sustainability social media.
* Tree Festival is returning next month on Thursday, Oct. 19th from 1:00 – 3:00 on Jefferson Sq.
	+ Registration to table during the event is still open – [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18c_-yv9bPEKDZ2gtMKJHo9TutCDl1l3QFIkcOLosuNE/edit).
	+ Flyers have been posted on social media and around campus, please help in spreading the word!
* Planning has started on the annual Fredericksburg Climate Conference (now Climate “Summit”)
	+ Tentatively set for Feb. 25th in the Chandler Ballroom
	+ The Planning committee is looking for personnel I (staff, faculty or students) interested in helping organize the event. If interested, please contact Sean (smorrow2@umw.edu)
* Remaining fall meetings will be in HCC 307 for ease of hybrid meetings. Next meeting is October 24 at 4pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.