**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

**Meeting of March 14th, 2024 3pm**

Present: Kevin Caffrey, Pamela Grothe, Kate Stoneman, Diana Binette, Lia Fowler, Avery Duncan, Alan Griffith, Mary Becelia, Eric Bonds, Michael Reno, Lauren Pilcher, Brian Ogle, Jeremy Larochelle, Suzanne Sumner, Melanie Szulczewski

1. **Sustainability Position Update:**

Kevin, Pam, and Brian Gorham (Facilities) are on the search committee with Holly. They have reviewed the candidates and are selecting the top 7 choices of 16 applicants to start the interviewing process. Ideally, they are looking for someone with experience in both a technical aspect (energy management) and a community engagement aspect.

Eric Bonds suggested a person who will take on more of a role of organizing institutional work like the Youth Climate Conference. The Youth Climate Conference had between 100-200 attendees.

1. **Subcommittee/General Updates:**

**Construction subcommittee:**

 No updates

**Curriculum and Research Subcommittee:**

Meeting next week to discuss the Center for Sustainability. The PCS was supportive of pursuing this (see bullet 5 below).

**Sustainability on Campus Subcommittee:**

In the midst of planning for Earth Week celebration. This will include a pollinator garden clean up, Arbor Day celebration, and Earth Day celebration. Earth day is expected to be April 22nd with the other two celebrations the week before.

Planning a clothing swap event to promote Earth Week and minimize clothing waste on campus.

1. **Climate Action Plan:**

Alan Griffith gave a roundup of the Climate Action Plan to the 10-year Planning Committee meeting. He finished the cost estimate information for Jeff McClurken to have when bringing the plan to the BOV.

He wants the plan to say that Sodexo communicates to the PCS and sustainability coordinator so that we can review their work with a sustainable lens.

He is pushing the final dates back in the climate action plan by 5 years.

1. **10-Year Planning Committee:**

Each subcommittee is in the process of writing and submitting reports. All have considered/incorporated sustainability into their plans.

1. **Center for Sustainability:**

Model proposed to implement parts of the climate action plan into a central place for sustainability. Educational research would fall in here. Conceptually how do we make this happen and what funding is needed to make it sustainable?

Jeremy Larochelle suggests the title of the center be “Center for Sustainability and Environmental Studies”.

Eric Bonds is concerned about the focus being on sustainable design and that not including more disciplines like sustainable justice, but that “environmental studies” would incorporate that.

Michael Reno suggests that it should connect with community engagement and not just on-campus work.

1. **Member Updates:**

Jeremy Larochelle invited everyone to the Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Saturday, March 16th.

Pamela Grothe will be on leave next fall and that will leave the faculty co-chair open. If any faculty are interested in stepping in as the faculty co-chair, they should contact her immediately.

Brain Ogle joined the Washington Regional Commission Committee on Transportation.

Kevin Caffrey brought up putting solar panels in places such as over benches to charge smaller devices. Suzanne Sumner says that idea has been floating around in the 10-year committee. A Fund for Mary Washington Impact Grant for $500-$5,000 grant application is due March 29th, which can be used to buy solar panels like these. Any student interested in this grant project should reach out to Kevin Caffrey or Eric Bonds.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 16th 4-5pm HCC 307 and via Zoom