

MINUTES

President's Council on Sustainability

Meeting of September 20th, 2024 4pm

Present: Kevin Caffrey, Kate Stoneman, Eric Bonds, Diana Binette, Lia Fowler, Avery Duncan, Holly Chichester, Mary Becelia, Holly Anthony, Jeremy Laroche, Suzanne Sumner, Alan Griffith, Brenda Togo, Shadwick Yoder, Jill Rosenquist, Lauren Pilcher, Amy Filiatreau, George March, Brian Ogle, Bethanie Hackett, Sushma Subramanian, Melanie Szulczewski

Introductions

Climate Action Plan Update

Alan Griffith updated the group on the standing of the Climate Action Plan by stating that the President is in a difficult political position with the members of the Board of Visitors (BOV). The BOV will not accept any sustainability initiatives unless they are cost neutral or cost producing. The PCS is tasked with moving forward on the curricular/academic side of the sustainability plan.

The President wants a five-year plan for sustainability instead of the already created plan to reach carbon neutrality. State administrators heard about the ESCO and seem uncomfortable with Schneider electric and the on paper initial investments (\$3.5-4 million). Jeff McClurken and Brian Gorham want to narrow the scope of the ESCO and request funds from the state government on things such as HVAC.

Alan wants the five-year plan to be led by the PCS.

Planning Committee

Suzanne Sumner wrote the ESCO paragraph in the planning committee documentation. Some of the language she used did not make the first cut and she plans on figuring out why and getting that language back onto the documentation in future meetings with the committee.

Climate Conference

Eric Bonds brings up the fifth annual Youth Climate Conference and how it is starting to be planned for February. This event brings a lot of high school students to campus and we would like to get UMW students more involved for planning the conference, research presentations, and general admissions.

Bee Campus USA

2 Students did research over the summer to get UMW to be a Bee Campus. Everything is in place to do an application for UMW to be a certified Bee Campus.

Individual Updates/News

The 5th Annual Harvest Festival is on October 24th from 11am – 3pm. PCS is going to table and needs volunteers.

The Native Plant festival is on October 5th from 11:30am – 4pm. Tree Fredericksburg, UMW Sustainability, and Landscape and grounds have teamed up for this event. Doug Tallamy is a featured speaker and there are other speakers discussing native plants and biodiversity.

Eric Bonds met with Jeremy Vaughn in the Office of Advancement to discuss receiving fundraising money for sustainability. Jeremy has invited the PCS to bring sustainable projects to him to get fundraising money.

Facilities is in the process of installing EV chargers in Alvey parking deck but permits have been challenging with the city.

Budget Proposal Review

The PCS Co-chairs will meet with the University Budget Advisory Committee to discuss a budget for the PCS on October 4th.

The Co-chairs have asked the members of the PCS to provide feedback on the budget proposal before presenting it to the Advisory Committee.

- Melanie Szulczewski suggests adding an outside guest speaker section to the budget.
- Brenda Togo suggests making classes for staff to take on sustainable professional development.
- Brian Ogle suggests more specific cost estimates on what the money will be spent on.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm

Next Meeting: **Friday, October 25th 3-4pm (HCC 111 or via Zoom at <https://umw-sso.zoom.us/j/89195864507>)**