

## **MINUTES**

### **President's Council on Sustainability**

#### **Meeting of March 18th, 2025 3pm**

Present: Kate Stoneman, Kevin Caffrey, Diana Binette, George March, Mary Becelia, Amy Filiatreau, Lauren Pilcher, Sushma Subramanian, Brian Ogle, Brenda Togo, Morgan Galusha, Holly Anthony, Suzanne Sumner, Jill Rosenquist, Bethanie Hackett, Avery Duncan, Alan Griffith, Pamela Grothe

#### **Climate Action Plan Update/Status**

Alan Griffith met with Jeff McClurken about Climate Action Plan updates. The administration wants the Climate Action Plan to turn into a 5-year plan. Alan is looking for volunteers to edit the financial section of the CAP to bring as recommendations to the President. Brenda and Suzanne offered to help. Once complete, those recommendations will be made public.

#### **Charging Station Update**

No updates.

#### **Youth Climate Action Summit Update**

Both days of the event were successful. The marketing was primarily for Saturday (thus more people present on Saturday). The high schoolers seemed engaged and excited. There was a lack of UMW students overall, but more than last year.

#### **Fredericksburg Data Center Decision**

The data centers have been approved.

#### **PCS Subcommittee Updates**

##### **1.Finance/Sustainability**

No updates.

##### **2.Curricular/Academic**

The subcommittee discussed the idea of bringing back Environmental studies colloquium where faculty members present over lunch on topics related to sustainability. Another idea is to Bring in off-campus guest speakers with potential new budget

##### **3.Student Engagement**

The subcommittee created a Petition for Renewable Energy Action, which will be promoted at tabling events on campus: [UMW Renewable Action Petition](#)

PCS tabling with the Office of Sustainability will occur at the Spring Farmers Market on April 1st, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

PCS is tabling for ASPIRE Week on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 2 pm on Ball Circle and Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12 – 3 pm on Ball Circle. The Sustainable Swap will be at Earth Day!

Another idea from the subcommittee is to get a CPB sustainable Bingo theme for next semester.

#### **4.Composting**

No Updates.

#### **Updates:**

The Office of Sustainability is partnering with Housing to host a Sustainable Drive where donation boxes will be placed in all residence halls from March 21st – April 20<sup>th</sup> to collect clothing and food.

Brenda is going through the Princeton Review to generate more ideas to improve sustainability across campus. She would like the PCS members to review the document and bring one thing of note to the next meeting to discuss. She is also trying to incorporate sustainability into New Student Orientations, New Employee Orientation, etc.

The SGA Sustainability Subcommittee meeting discussed recycling education outreach for greater UMW community and recycling training in orientation.

UMW was invited to participate in the Virginia Student Environmental Coalition. The coalition is run through student-led environmental groups at other universities. PCS has been invited to be leaders in the group, but the SGA Sustainability Subcommittee may be a better fit.

Brenda shared that she is meeting with Virginia Sustainability in Higher Education on Thursday April 3rd 2 -4 pm on Zoom and extended an invitation to PCS members.

George mentioned Mary Wash Day and looking into an account for sustainability to receive funding. We are too late to make this happen this year, but it is a good idea for the next academic year.

Brenda mentioned the idea of a yard sale during moveout where proceeds are split between university and sustainability budget (suggestion from Sierra Club connection). Virginia Tech does something like this through the YMCA (Y-Toss) [Y-TOSS - VTYMCA](#).

Meeting adjourned at 3:52