

Fname	Lname	Email	Group
Pearl	Bearhart	<a href="mailto:pbearhart@uwlax.edu">pbearhart@uwlax.edu</a>	U Staff
Adam	Driscoll	<a href="mailto:adriscoll@uwlax.edu">adriscoll@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty
Katherine	Fish	<a href="mailto:kfish@uwlax.edu">kfish@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty
Steve	Fulton	<a href="mailto:sfulton@uwlax.edu">sfulton@uwlax.edu</a>	Ac Staff
Guy	Herling	<a href="mailto:gherling@uwlax.edu">gherling@uwlax.edu</a>	Ac Staff
Tesia	Marshik	<a href="mailto:tmarshik@uwlax.edu">tmarshik@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty
Kris	Rolfus	<a href="mailto:krolfhus@uwlax.edu">krolfhus@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty

## Joint Committee for Environmental Sustainability

### Official Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday, September 27, 2019

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Student Senate Chambers - 2310 Student Union

- I. Call to Order- Mitch at 11:03.
- II. JCES Schedule- Reviewed
  - Room 2310 Union – every other Friday, 11–12 pm.  
(~~9/13~~, 9/27, 10/11, 11/22, 12/6, 2/7, 3/6, 3/27, 4/10, 5/8)
  - Room 325 Graff Main -- (10/25, 11/8, 4/24)
  - Room TBA -- (2/21)
- III. Review Membership – Selected at the previous meeting:
  - a. Co-Chairs: Mitch Bunting and Kris Rolfhus
  - b. Recording Secretary: Adam Driscoll
  - c. Sustainability Webpage Manager: Dan Sweetman
    - i. Historically, Dan Sweetman has done a lot of the management in the past.
    - ii. The web manager position is designed to be someone who updates and is responsible for the content.
    - iii. Dan can manage the mechanics, but the committee should be the one responsible for providing the content to be posted.
  - d. Faculty/AS: Driscoll, Fish, Fulton, Herling, Marshik, Rolfhus
  - e. Environmental Studies: Margot Higgins, Alysa Remsburg
  - f. University Staff: Drea Higgins
  - g. Students: Alaina Goodreau (SoE), Mitch Bunting (GF), Logan Furniss (GF), Kelly Flynn (SFS), Ben Zess (SFS)
  - h. Manager, UWL Health/Occ Safety/Sust Program: Dan Sweetman
  - i. UWL Parking and Transportation: Victor Hill (Not sure if he'll be attending regularly)
  - j. Bike Share contacts: Margot Higgins and Mitch Bunting
  - k. Monthly UW-System Coordinator calls: Guy Herling
    - i. The first Tuesday of every month, 1pm
    - ii. The sustainability coordinators around the system discussing what they're doing. Also, discussions about what is going on state-wide to promote sustainability
    - iii. Others are welcome to join in on the calls
    - iv. Dan will send out a listserve for those who want to be added
- IV. New Business
  - a. Mini Green Fund Grants (Logan)
    - i. Logan described the grant briefly (see attachment)

- ii. Requested that we take pictures just for marketing purposes and to make clear that we've supported this effort
  - iii. Questions about how this event has been promoted. (Via Facebook)
  - iv. Where will the trash and recycling be going?
    - 1. The recycling will be taken to campus bins.
    - 2. The trash can be placed into campus dumpsters as long as it is being distributed among a range of dumpsters and we don't create any overflow issues. (And stay away from dorm bins)
    - 3. Dan will let the university police know that students will be using campus bins.
    - 4. Dan will also let Mitch know which dumpsters are the best ones to use.
  - v. Passed by consent.
- b. Semester Update on Green Fund Account Balance (Furniss)
- i. This was tabled until the next meeting. Larry will help Logan and Mitch find that budget.
  - ii. We can only allocate \$40,000 a year, \$20,000 max for the first term.
    - 1. Therefore we need to make sure we are prioritizing appropriately.
  - iii. Funds can be distributed over different years, so that the money will come from different budgets. (Four year max)
  - iv. Funds not spent will require discussion.
- c. Goals for the year—Chancellor Gow will visit at a later meeting
- i. We want to make sure we have some clear, defined goals for when he visits.
  - ii. Advertisement of GF to campus community
    - 1. Getting the word out to the campus
  - iii. Progress on Sustainability Webpage Manager
    - 1. As above, Dan will be the contact point, but the committee will provide the content.
    - 2. Dan mentioned that we should be putting up examples of how the Green Fund has been used in the past. Successful projects. This would aid in the visibility of the GF.
    - 3. Some of that information is up on the Green Fund webpage.
  - iv. Update on UWL Sustainability Coordinator position (Zess)
    - 1. Ben has been in contact with Joe Gow
    - 2. Joe has responded that we should fund the position through the Green Fund
      - a. However, that would empty the Green Fund
    - 3. Currently, the University is in the red, and funds are not currently available.
    - 4. Currently, we couldn't just raise fees to support this.
    - 5. Larry thinks the allocable, seg. fees should not be going toward personnel. Sets a bad precedent. May not be supported by other administrators.

- a. We could possibly consider funding this position temporarily via grants.
  - b. Or funding a part time position for now.
6. We should also bear in mind that the green work that we are doing, the fact that students want this kind of work, is a way of advertising the need and support for this position.
7. Larry will ask how other Universities are funding their coordinator positions
  - a. We looked into this last year and the funding stream depended on where the coordinator position was located.
  - b. At some Universities this was more of a facilities position.
  - c. At others, it's more of an outreach and education position.
8. We should make sure that we're framing this position within the strategic plan.
  - a. Possibly it would fit under the equity pillar. Or the transformational education pillar.
  - b. Can we get somebody to talk to the equity or transformational education groups?
9. We should also consider changing the name of the position we want to "Resilience Coordinator."
10. Larry offered to talk with anyone interested in pushing for this position to help walk them through the budget side of this endeavor.
11. We might also frame this as a retention effort. A way of attracting and keeping students here at UWL.
12. The Civic Engagement Coordinator position could be a good model for us to work off of.

Larry Ringgenberg had a few other points to bring up:

Hillview's vermiculture compost went down. (The worms all died)

They're looking into moving the operation to a local high school

Larry has also been working on a Farm to Table event and is interested in getting some students to help out.

Date- November 13<sup>th</sup>. (Something in the U and something over in Whitney)

Local farmers will be coming to campus, a lot from Vernon County and Viroqua

Students could be staffing tables and helping with the publicity/marketing aspect

Lots of students are asking about plastics, looking at the smoothie area.

Faculty Senate is entertaining a proposal for Meatless Mondays

This would be expressed in the dining services. Not necessarily done evenly throughout all of the different services.

One concern is over meeting all students' nutritional needs.  
The goal is possibly the Spring, but next year is more likely.

One other goal Dan brought up was gathering data on campus activities (such as recycling) and publishing it.

A way of advertising how well we're doing in terms of sustainability.

That data could be used to help justify the sustainability coordinator position.

We could possibly coordinate with the statistics department to utilize them (or students within their program) to analyze the data.

V. Old Business

- a. UW-System Annual Sustainability Conference upcoming 3-4 October, Madison, WI.
- b. Green Fund application due date – November 4<sup>th</sup>? (Bunting, Furniss)

VI. Discussion

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment

10/15/2019

JCES meets every Friday at 11 am. Their first meeting was held 9/13. Kris Rolfus asked that the Chancellor wait to attend a meeting as they wanted more time to formulate goals. On 9/20 Kris emailed and said he would let me know when the committee is ready to meet with Chancellor. I emailed Kris this morning asking again about a meeting date.

Below is the thread of emails.....

**Friday, 10/11, from Barrett Klein**

Dear JCES,

After our meeting today, I wrote to a UWL alumnus and donor about UWL's need for a Sustainability Coordinator. He responded positively and right away. Before I respond to his questions, I wanted to reach out to all of you to receive your thoughts. Please help me with information and with drafting responses!

EMAIL from donor:

It's great to hear from you. I really appreciate you reaching out to me. I understand your concern and I will investigate to see if there is something I can do to help. To start, I will reach out to a couple of trusted colleagues that have a bit more experience with the inner workings of UWL for advice.

To help me with those initial "reach outs" I have a couple of questions:

1. Has UWL ever had someone acting in this role under a different title or as part of other job responsibilities?
2. Has the JCES ever raised the issue with anyone in Administration? If so, what were those discussions like? What were the issues or objections to moving ahead?
3. Do you know where I could find a job description for a Sustainability Coordinator? While I have an idea about what this position looks like, a job description (ideally from from a UW system school or an aspirant institution) will certainly help frame my initial conversations.

I am certainly willing to help and ask the hard questions to get this ball rolling.

**Monday, 10/14, 9:27 AM from Steven Fulton**

I am out of the office until Wednesday so here are my brief starts of answers -

1. I do not have a long history with JCES or UWL but from my understanding there was the part time release giving to do the STARS application and that much of the energy conservation, waste reduction etc. part of a traditional coordinator are done by Dan Sweetman and Facilities. Also, a little further afield, several of the new Diversity and Equity admin position could be consider as they are jobs include expanding the pool of students applying to UWL - specifics would need to be looked at ...

2. 2. See the shared 2016.04 Summary of Past requests document. Also the negatives given by Admin this past year.
3. 3. I cannot find them in the shared folder but Ben Golden et al. Came up with 3 possible job description for such a position as part of last years push to get the students and faculty to pass resolutions. These should be both in the shared folder and on the public web site....

**Monday, 10/14, 10:21 AM from Kristofer Rolfhus**

Hi Barrett,

Thanks for your efforts. Last year was a busy one for JCES in terms of advocating for a Sustainability and Resilience Coordinator. The attached file summarizes the following:

- 1) The student petition, which was strongly passed by a campus-wide student referendum this past spring.
- 2) Both the UWL Faculty Senate (May 2019) and Student Association (March 2019) officially endorsed the petition. Administration is aware of this, as well as student and faculty/staff efforts that go back approximately 10 years.
- 3) JCES document presenting the rationale for a Coordinator position, as well as four contrasting models based upon what peer campuses are doing.
- 4) Both the WTC Sustainability Coordinator and the UWL Admissions Director were brought in to share their views.

I don't think anyone will have a problem with sharing the file with a potential supporter. Please contact me if you'd like to discuss this further. It may be useful to include Ben Golden and Joan Bunbury (and other current/former JCES members) in on this conversation as it develops.

**Monday, 10/14, 10:57 AM from Benjamin Golden**

Thanks to Barrett and the current JCES for continuing this work! I agree that the document we prepared last year can go a long way to answering the questions of Barrett's contact. A couple of additional points that have become clear since our push last Spring:

- 1) Governor Evers signed an executive order with the stated goal of moving the State of Wisconsin to 100% carbon neutrality by 2050, in line with the UN Intergovernmental Panel's recommendations. To my knowledge, there is no comprehensive plan at UWL to meet that goal.
- 2) The primary resistance from Chancellor Gow and Provost Morgan has been due to issues of cost. As several administrative positions have been added in the 10 years since the first request for this position, it seems difficult to believe that it's not more a matter of priority

than cost. In that regard, simply hearing from alumni and donors about the importance of this sort of position might be beneficial in changing that perception.

3) This one is hot off the presses: The current draft of the new General Education program that we all received this morning, carves out a specific portion of general education requirement for classes that discuss environmental issues. This is not only a great thing for our students, but shows that there is institutional priority for issues of environmental sustainability. Imagine how much richer this section of General Education could be if there was a person who could provide interdisciplinary continuity and collaboration between instructors offering these classes.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance to this year's JCES in the continued push for this position.

**Tuesday, 10/15, 7:02 AM from Joan Bunbury**

This is really great news Barrett – thank you for reaching out to the alumnus/donor regarding the position.

And Ben, thank you also for your continued involvement in JCES.

And thanks to Kris and JCES. I see that you have all been hard at work this semester and this is great to see that the momentum for this position continues. I appreciate being included in the ongoing discussion so that I am will be up to speed when I return in January.

Below is a list of the names on the email distribution:

Colin	Belby
Joan	Bunbury
Scott	Cooper
Adam	Driscoll
Katherine	Fish
Steven	Fulton
Benjamin	Golden
Alaina	Goodreau
Guy	Herling
Drea	Higgins
Margot	Higgins
Barrett	Klein
Tesia	Marshik
Jake	Myers
Kristofer	Rolfhus
Kelly	Sultzbach
Daniel	Sweetman



Sara's list of committee members:

Fname	Lname	Email	Group
Pearl	Bearhart	<a href="mailto:pbearhart@uwlax.edu">pbearhart@uwlax.edu</a>	U Staff
Adam	Driscoll	<a href="mailto:adriscoll@uwlax.edu">adriscoll@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty
Katherine	Fish	<a href="mailto:kfish@uwlax.edu">kfish@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty
Steve	Fulton	<a href="mailto:sfulton@uwlax.edu">sfulton@uwlax.edu</a>	Ac Staff
Guy	Herling	<a href="mailto:gherling@uwlax.edu">gherling@uwlax.edu</a>	Ac Staff
Tesia	Marshik	<a href="mailto:tmarshik@uwlax.edu">tmarshik@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty
Kris	Rolfus	<a href="mailto:krolfhus@uwlax.edu">krolfhus@uwlax.edu</a>	Faculty

## Joint Committee for Environmental Sustainability

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday, November 8, 2019

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Faculty Senate Chambers - 325 Graff Main

**In Attendance:** Adam Driscoll, Steven Fulton, Andrew Ericson (Senator for SfS), Olivia Tasch, Darby DeGross, Haley Barta, Pearl Bearhart, Katie Saladin, Dan Sweetman, Ben Zess, Logan Furniss, Christy Ihrke (sp), Margot Higgins, Kris Rolfhus, Jacob Sciammas, Katherine Fish, Barrett Klein, Tesia Marshik, Drea Higgins

- I. Call to Order (K. Rolfhus, 11:01)
  
- II. JCES Schedule (Next meeting will be over in Graff Main)
  - Room 2310 Union – every other Friday, 11–12 pm.  
(~~9/13~~, ~~9/27~~, ~~10/11~~, 11/22, 12/6, 2/7, 3/6, 3/27, 4/10, 5/8)
  - Room 325 Graff Main -- (~~10/25~~, 11/8, 4/24)
  - Room TBA -- (2/21)
  
- III. Membership:
  - Co-Chairs: Mitch Bunting and Kris Rolfhus
  - Recording Secretary: Adam Driscoll
  - Sustainability Webpage Manager: Ben Zess
  - Faculty/AS: Driscoll, Fish, Fulton, Herling, Marshik, Rolfhus
  - Environmental Studies: Margot Higgins, Alysa Remsburg
  - University Staff: Pearl Bearhart
  - Students: Alaina Goodreau (SoE), Mitch Bunting (GF), Logan Furniss (GF), Kelly Flynn (SFS), Ben Zess (SFS)
  - Manager, UWL Health/Occ Safety/Sust Program: Dan Sweetman
  - UWL Parking and Transportation: Victor Hill
  - Bike Share contacts: Margot Higgins and Mitch Bunting
  - Monthly UW-System Coordinator calls: Guy Herling
  
- IV. New Business
  - Green Fund Applications – 13 Mini, 6 Large Applications

We decided to focus on the 6 large grants since they have to move through other approval processes.

So over the next two meetings we'd like to get through the 6 large grants.

Josie Talbot's straw grant has some time-sensitive aspects and should be reviewed soon.

- Update on System Call

We have the minutes of the system call in the JCES folder

The system is putting together a working group to coordinate between campuses

If anyone wants to be a part of this they need to sign up before Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> (The link to the Google.doc is in the minutes)

There's a taskforce on GCC

Also some discussion of divestment in the UW-Foundation

- Semester Update on Green Fund Account Balance

Our actual budget stands at \$160,000 and an additional \$50,000 should be added in the Spring

We're not clear about exactly where that money is coming from (Spring or Fall)  
Logan was not given access to the actual budget itself (Wisdom)

The question was raised as to whether or not we should take the budget into consideration regarding what we fund.

Within our bylaws we're supposed to rank proposals, not just decide them.  
SUFAC and the student senate are the ones who should worry about the budget.  
If the money isn't spent on a regular basis, it might go away.

It seems like there's some irregularities with the budget.

So we should just be judging the projects on their own merits, and not thinking about the budget.

- Sub-committee formed to promote Coordinator position

Barrett communicated with an alumnus donator who is interested in educational philanthropy

He was quite responsive and has a dinner with Joe Gow in CO and is going to bring it up.

He seems quite behind it and is coming here on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting with Barrett. (The visit is over the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>)

If anyone has thoughts to share with him before their conversation, they should relay them.

We should also share some of our broad thoughts as to the role philanthropy can play in promoting sustainability (or influencing the budget).

For the subcommittee working on the coordinator position, if anyone is interested they should e-mail Kris

- Green Fund Applications – 13 Mini, 6 Large Applications

Zagster Bike Station Grant (see Appendix A for the full grant)

Haley, Darby, and Olivia

Seeking 10,000 a year for one bike station on campus

UWL will get to advertise on the bikes

There was an assessment back in 2016 asking about interest in a bikeshare

Also a feasibility study back in 2015 which was assessing the physical suitability

We do have a few donors for the program as a whole already.

A few of the stations are being set up already, Jacob Sciammas provided an overview.

None of the sites launch until March.  
We would be part of the first phase.  
There will be multiple phases of the rollout.

They have contacted Bob Hetzel

Bob Hetzel has expressed some concern with conflict between the Bikeshare and the Green Bikes.

The Green Bikes are coming up to their term  
There's a wait list of 70 students for Green Bikes

There's also a program to rent a bike from the Outdoor Center  
But that's designed more for taking bikes away for a weekend

They are meeting with Lisa Kline next week to discuss the community outreach aspects

Question- Would there be something in place to monitor the use of the system? And who would be responsible for that?

The system generates the usage data. Who from campus would have access to that data?

Any plan in place for how the student rental money goes?

There should also be some manner of information/advertising/education about the program.  
Outreach. Something that would draw students to use the bikes as well as educate them on the benefits of using the bike share program.

We are simply voting to approve and rank this project.

Approval by Bob Hetzel would be further down the road.

We'll have further discussion and a chance to vote later.

#### Discussion of Talbot's Straw Proposal

The mini grant was discussed. (See Appendix B for full proposal)

Suggestion of moving the date to start of Spring semester was accepted.

It was agreed that it should be voted on early in the next meeting.

#### V. Old Business

- Goals for the year—Chancellor Gow will visit at a later meeting

#### VI. Discussion

#### VII. Announcements

#### VIII. Adjournment

## **Appendix A- Haley Barta, Olivia Tasch, Darby DeGross- Zagster Bike Share**

### **Contact Information**

Name: Haley Barta, Olivia Tasch, Darby DeGross

Phone: **HB:** (414) 520.2027 **OT:** (920) 737.0665 **DD:** (715) 410.1216

Email: [barta.haley@uwlax.edu](mailto:barta.haley@uwlax.edu), [tasch.olivia@uwlax.edu](mailto:tasch.olivia@uwlax.edu), [degross.darby@uwlax.edu](mailto:degross.darby@uwlax.edu)

Unit/Organization/Department: Public Health-Community Health Education Students

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### **Please give a brief overview of the proposed items or project(s) you are requesting funding. What would be the approximate cost?**

We are proposing to fund a two-year Zagster bike share station on the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus starting in Spring of 2020. The two-year station would include five full-service Zagster bikes. Zagster bike share full-service fee is \$2,000 per bike per year. Zagster's bike share full-service fee would include bike share implementation, high quality bikes and stations, technology, sponsorships, and operations. The implementation would include a five-bike station sponsorship, costing \$10,000 per year. We are asking for \$20,000 to implement the bike share station on the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus for two years.

Zagster is the best option for a bike share program in the La Crosse community. It is a hybrid program which means there are permanent stations throughout the community. Users must dock the bike to complete their trip and are able to dock at any station. The technology of the bikes includes a Bluetooth locking system through a mobile app with a national bike sharing network. The Zagster company would be contracted through the La Crosse Neighborhood Association and Smith's Bike Shop will be the probable company working on the maintenance of the bikes. The benefit of choosing Zagster is that it is a full-service bike program which includes; installation of the stations, deployment of the bicycles, rebalancing the bicycles to prevent availability issues, and provide 24/7 rider support by phone, email, or text and liability insurance coverage. Funding one Zagster station on campus would represent the University of Wisconsin La Crosse's commitment to sustainability, economic growth, student health, and innovation.

### **What is the general timeline for the project? (When do you see this being on campus?)**

The Zagster bike share program is projected to be implemented in the Spring of 2020 (March 1st is the current target). If funded, that would include the bike station on University of Wisconsin La Crosse's campus also being implemented at that time. Other bike share stations in the La Crosse community that will be funded and implemented in March of 2020 include; Viterbo University, Western Technical College, LHI, Cleary Properties, La Crosse Park and Rec, Festival Foods Copeland, People's Food Co-op, LCNI, Pearl Street Brewery, and many more. If the bike share station is funded, Zagster would be installing the station and bikes at this time for students, visitors, and faculty to access and use.

**Please give a detailed explanation on the environmental impact of proposed project? Will this project reduce UW-Ls Carbon Foot print, water usage or electricity consumption? If indirectly please explain how.**

Having this bike share program on campus will reduce the environmental impact of the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus, particularly in the carbon emissions that are being released and contributing to our carbon footprint. This reduction would be due to the use and availability of bikes. Instead of driving to class and to work, students and faculty would have the option to bike instead. There will be multiple stations around the La Crosse community that students and faculty can access and then bike to the station on campus, or anywhere else near a bike station. This reduces the amount of car trips to and from campus therefore reducing the amount of harmful emissions released. As stated by Bike Share Feasibility Analysis, "20%-40% of bike share trips replace what would have been a trip traveled by car therefore 16,000 gallons of gasoline were saved avoiding 300,000 pounds of CO2 emissions." This bike share project can also decrease the need for more parking spaces on campus if less students and faculty drove to campus and more chose to use a bike as their transportation. This can be accomplished with the availability and accessibility of the station on the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus.

**How will this project increase student understanding of environmental issues or actions? Will it be visible to students?**

Funding a Zagster bike share station on University of Wisconsin La Crosse's campus would increase students understanding of environmental issues through a product that is accessible and affordable to students. Bike Share Feasibility Analysis of 2015 shared that 80% of bike share users gained knowledge on the need to improve air quality after using bike share. Students would also receive a 50% off discount, which would only be \$5 a month to use the bike share program throughout the whole city of La Crosse. The University of Wisconsin La Crosse community defines sustainability as being both a local and global interaction between economy, environment, and society. This is done by providing students, faculty, staff, and the community with the knowledge and skills to be environmentally responsible citizens. The bike share station encompasses UWL's sustainability goals and allows students, faculty, and visitors to participate by having an active hand in environmental sustainability efforts.

**Do you plan to collaborate with other entities? This includes, planning, executing the project through student or community organizations and university departments/offices.**

The Zagster bike share station on University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus has been led by the La Crosse Neighborhood Association. Carolyn Dvorak, a member of this organization, has been overseeing us as Public Health-Community Health Education students writing this grant. Carolyn and other members have been collaborating with the Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability to initiate this program on the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus. Bob Hetzel has also been contacted via email explaining the Zagster Bike Share program and its station on UWL's campus. Along with that, the City of La Crosse and multiple other organizations have been

working with the La Crosse Neighborhood Association on the implementation of the bike share program in the La Crosse community. By funding the bike share station on UWL's campus the university will be collaboration with Zagster and receive a sponsorship placement on the bikes and stations. Zagster will also be responsible for running the program, maintaining the bikes, and operating the technology. Their full-service model keeps the operations local, while leaving it to the bike sharing experts to manage and operate the program daily. Zagster's direct involvement in the daily operations allows for the sponsors to only be responsible for the initial funding and optional promotion of the program.

**Large and complex projects require UWL staff member(s) to be involved, please list designated personnel who are involved in the proposed project or have been contacted to verify project viability.**

Name(s):

- Bob Hetzel has been contacted to verify project viability.
- Lisa Klein has been contacted to gain support for the bike share station on UWL campus to help increase community connectedness.
- Margot Higgins is an environmental studies professor who is involved in transportation policy planning. Margot has been involved with getting the bike share program implemented on UWL's campus for a year now.
- James Longhurst has done a lot of work on transportation policy and advocacy. He has also written the Bicycle Friendly University Application.
- Students for Sustainability is a group of students that works on sustainability and environmental issues who has advocated for a bike share station on UWL's campus.
- Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability has been working with the Neighborhood Association (Carolyn Dvorak and Jacob Sciammas) on initiating this program on the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus.

Email(s):

- Bob Hetzel: bhetzel@uwlax.edu
- Lisa Klein: lklein@uwlax.edu
- Margot Higgins: mhiggins@uwlax.edu
- James Longhurst: jlonghurst@uwlax.edu
- JCES: solson@uwlax.edu
- Students for Sustainability: zess4630@uwlax.edu

**Are you receiving additional funding from other university or non-university entities?**

YES:            NO: **X**

**If yes, please state the other sources of funding that you are receiving and the amount received.**

N/A

**Is there any other relevant information that you would like to add?**

According to the Bike Share Feasibility Study, 85% of participants rated that it's very important to add a bike share program as a transportation option in the La Crosse Area. Benefits of implementing the program include less traffic congestion, promotes greater transit use, no pollution, and inexpensive to use. The study also demonstrated that the UWL campus scores high among the indicators for success of the bike share program. An implementation of a bike share station on the University of Wisconsin La Crosse's campus would create an attractive component to the university for prospective families and faculty. The sustainable addition to campus would reduce UWL's carbon footprint, increase students' knowledge, and have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. The Zagster bike share aligns with the university's official motto *mens corpusque* "mind and body" and would be a representation of University of Wisconsin La Crosse's commitment to sustainability, economic growth, student health, and innovation.



## Appendix B- Josie Talbert Straw Mini Grant

**Please give a brief overview of the proposed items or project(s). You are requesting funding. What would be the approximate cost?**

A variety of students have talked to the Resident District Manager of Chartwells and the Associate Director of University Centers regarding their concerns about the number of straws being used by students as they get smoothies in the Badger Street Station dining operation located in Whitney Center. As the Sustainability Intern, I have been asked to assist with this project.

In response to student concerns, University Dining would like to move to a more sustainable straw option. However, they would like students to have a say in the type of straw that will be used in this area, so that students are satisfied with the change.

We will have a two-week testing period with four different types of straws (wheat-based, cane-based, paper, and PLA). These straws will be tested by students drinking smoothies. At the end of the testing period, there will be a 2-day time period where student feedback will be solicited in order to determine which straw students felt would work the best in the smoothie area. Student surveys will be conducted on the Monday and Tuesday following the testing period. Volunteers will stand at a table outside of Badger Street Station throughout the smoothie station open hours. At this table, volunteers will ask students to fill out a short survey. This survey will ask students to rate the four straws with a number 1-4; one being the straw they liked the most, and four being the straw they liked the least. These surveys will be used to determine which straw is going to be purchased to replace plastic straws in the smoothie station.

### **Costs:**

#### **Wheat/Hay Straw:**

\*<https://yesstraws.com/collections/wheat-straws>

**COST:** \$21.00 for 500 long straws

<https://www.refonia.com/products/all-natural-wheat-drinking-straw?variant=28595055624256>

**COST:** \$24.99/500 straws (\$15.99 Sale)

<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/hay-straws-7-3-4-natural-wheat-biodegradable-drinking-straws-pack/500HAYSTRW07.html>

**COST:** \$26.99/500 straws

#### **Cane Straw:**

<https://www.amazon.com/Original-Sugarcane-Straws-200-Pack/dp/B07SKTG8SB>

**COST:** \$16.97/200 straws = \$50.91 for 600 straws

\*<https://yesstraws.com/collections/cane-straws>

**COST:** \$42.00 for 500 straws

#### **PLA Straw:**

<https://www.restaurantware.com/media/catalog/product/cache/9acef7d1ef9b6ecea35dddea8ea8fdff/R/W/RWP0301G-1-LR.jpg>

**COST:** \$51.99 + \$20.40 shipping = \$72.39 – 2,000 straws unwrapped (smallest amount that can be bought)

\*[https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/compostable\\_straws.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1aaXm-TF5QIVh4bACh1tswZVEAAYAiAAEgKQ\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/compostable_straws.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1aaXm-TF5QIVh4bACh1tswZVEAAYAiAAEgKQ_D_BwE)

**COST:** \$9.34/400 straws \$18.68 + 6.75 for shipping = \$25.43 for 800 straws  
(if sale price is still in effect price would be \$48.18 + \$9.75 = \$57.93)

[https://envirotakeout.com/products/7-75-clear-unwrapped-jumbo-pla-straws-case-of-6-000?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwPiznpTG5QIVFaSzCh3GTggREAQYASABEgK4jvD\\_BwE](https://envirotakeout.com/products/7-75-clear-unwrapped-jumbo-pla-straws-case-of-6-000?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwPiznpTG5QIVFaSzCh3GTggREAQYASABEgK4jvD_BwE)

**COST:** \$88.00/6,000 straws + \$19.87 shipping = \$107.87

**Paper Straw:**

[https://www.webstaurantstore.com/ecochoice-8-1-2-colossal-white-unwrapped-paper-straw-pack/999PCOLWH.html?utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=Shopping%20HP&utm\\_term=1100404859835&utm\\_content=Disposables](https://www.webstaurantstore.com/ecochoice-8-1-2-colossal-white-unwrapped-paper-straw-pack/999PCOLWH.html?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Shopping%20HP&utm_term=1100404859835&utm_content=Disposables)

**COST:** \$21.99/500 straws + \$12.76 = \$34.75

\* <https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/paper-straws.html>

**COST:** \$9.99/600 straws + \$6.75 shipping = \$16.74

(if sale price is still in effect price would be \$8.99+ \$6.75 = \$15.74)

<https://cibowares.com/products/7-75-white-unwrapped-jumbo-paper-straws?variant=12627999752263>

**COST:** \$28.98/500 + \$10.07 = \$39.05

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**TOTAL COST:**

Wheat - \$21.00 for 500 straws unwrapped

Sugar Cane - \$42.00 for 500 straws unwrapped

PLA - \$25.43 – 800 straws unwrapped

Paper - \$16.74 for 600 straws unwrapped

**\$105.17**

**What is the general timeline for the project? (When do you see this being on campus?)**

November 18 – 22 & December 2 – 6: Students test the different straws

- Monday – Thursday: A different straw would be featured each day
- Friday: All four types of straws would be available; allowing students to try one they may not have yet tested because they missed getting a smoothie one day of the week.

December 9 – 10: Students give feedback on straws.

A Green Fund Request to purchase the winning straw will be submitted early Spring Semester. Any straws remaining from the testing period will be used at the beginning of Spring Semester.

**Please give a detailed explanation on the environmental impact of proposed project? Will this project reduce UWL's carbon footprint, water usage or electricity consumption? If indirectly, please explain how.**

In the long term, the goal of this project is finding a sustainable straw to use at the smoothie station in Whitney Dining Center. Once students decide whether they prefer wheat based, cane based, PLA, or paper straws, we will continue to use the chosen straw at the smoothie station. Currently, Chartwells is purchasing one case of plastic straws per month for the smoothie station. There are 3000 straws in each case. This is steady for about 8.5 months out of the year. So, by buying a sustainable straw, we could divert 25,500 plastic straws from the landfill per year. The plastic straws being used currently will take about 450 years to decompose, and they will release not only carbon dioxide, but also methane while decomposing (Williams, 2018). In a five year period of time, methane traps 100x more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide does (Nyman, 2015). Decreasing our waste also helps to reduce the amount of plastic being

created in the first place. Regardless of where our sustainable straw option ends up, we know that any of these straws will be better than plastic. The cane based straw is made from bagasse, the fibrous material left over after squeezing sugar cane for juice. This product would usually be burned or thrown away. The wheat based straws are made from wheat stalks leftover after harvesting wheat. Usually, this would also be burned or go to a landfill. Either of these options will not require deforestation in order to produce. The paper straws will degrade faster than plastic straws, and the PLA straws are made from plant based materials. In addition, we will be supporting a company that is working towards sustainable alternatives to plastic, instead of purchasing from a company that disregards sustainability and continues to produce plastic materials. As for the life of our sustainable straw options after they are used, we will be sending samples to Brandon Knudson who is helping to coordinate future composting on the UWL campus. He will then make sure that these options can be composted, although right now he has stated that they should all be able to go into the composting system. By decreasing our plastic straw consumption, and composting our sustainable straw options, we will reduce the amount of straws being sent to the landfill and ultimately reduce methane emissions being released into our atmosphere (Ashford, 2010).

**How will this project increase student understanding of environmental issues or actions?**

Testing plastic straw alternatives will help students understand the environmental issue at hand, and our proposed solution. Before the two week long testing period, I will be tabling in Whitney Dining Center with information about each straw option. I will also notify the students about the upcoming weeks of testing, so that they will be more aware of submitting their opinions at the end of the two weeks. After getting feedback from students, and purchasing the option that they choose, students will see this product at the smoothie station. Being involved with the entire process will help students to pay attention to the environmental issue of waste. It will also show them that there are many alternatives to plastic, and that sometimes there are many different correct answers to environmental issues.

**Do you plan to collaborate with other entities? This includes, planning, executing the project through student or community organizations and university departments/offices.**

For this project, I will be working with the Associate Director of University Centers. I hope to connect with the Student Services & Building Committee (Student Association Committee that oversees the Student Union, Whitney Center and the REC) for some help with gathering feedback on the straws. In order to survey students, we will need volunteers from these organizations to table for feedback during the hours that the smoothie station is open on Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Large and complex projects require UWL staff member(s) to be involved, please list designated personnel who are involved in the proposed project or have been contacted to verify project viability.**

Name(s):

Dr. Mary Beth Vahala (Associate Director, University Centers);  
Steve Martens (University Dining, Resident District Manager)

Email(s):

[mvahala@uwlax.edu](mailto:mvahala@uwlax.edu)  
[smartens@uwlax.edu](mailto:smartens@uwlax.edu)

**Are you receiving additional funding from other university or non-university entities?**

NO

**If yes, please state the other sources of funding that you are receiving and the amount received.**

**Is there any other relevant information that you would like to add?**

Though University Centers & University Dining will not be providing any funding for the “straw testing,” they will be providing personnel to make sure the straws are available to the students Monday through Friday. These two departments will also provide written information and signage regarding the straws being tested and the project itself.

We are talking to the Student Services & Buildings Committee and Students for Sustainability to see if they would be willing to partner with us and assist with surveying students on the two survey days.

**Sources:**

Nyman, P. (2015, May 18). Methane vs. Carbon Dioxide: A Greenhouse Gas Showdown. Retrieved from <https://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/methane-vs-carbon-dioxide-a-greenhouse-gas-showdown/>

Ashford, M. (2010, August 25). What Happens Inside a Landfill? Retrieved from <https://www.livescience.com/32786-what-happens-inside-a-landfill.html>.

Williams, R. (2018, May 16). We Depend On Plastic. Now, We're Drowning in It. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-waste-pollution-trash-crisis/#close>

University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

## Joint Committee for Environmental Sustainability

1725 State Street | La Crosse, WI 54601

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Student Senate Chambers - 3201

**In Attendance:** Kris Rolfhus, Mitch Bunting, Katherine Fish, Adam Driscoll, Steven Fulton, Andrew Ericson, Kelly Flynn, Ben Zess, Alaina Goodreau, Logan Furniss, Zach Kuschel, Colin Belby, Dan Sweetman, Barrett Klein, Tesia Marshik, Pearl Bearhart, Drea Higgins

I. Call to Order (K. Rolfhus, 11:00)

II. JCES Schedule

Room 2310 Union – every other Friday, 11–12 pm.

(~~9/13~~, ~~9/27~~, ~~10/11~~, 11/22, 12/6, 2/7, 3/6, 3/27, 4/10, 5/8)

Room 325 Graff Main -- (~~10/25~~, ~~11/8~~, 4/24)

Room TBA -- (2/21)

III. Membership:

- Co-Chairs: Mitch Bunting and Kris Rolfhus
- Recording Secretary: Adam Driscoll
- Sustainability Webpage Manager: Ben Zess
- Faculty/AS: Driscoll, Fish, Fulton, Herling, Marshik, Rolfhus
- Environmental Studies: Margot Higgins, Alysa Remsburg
- University Staff: Pearl Bearhart
- Students: Alaina Goodreau (SoE), Mitch Bunting (GF), Logan Furniss (GF), Kelly Flynn (SFS), Ben Zess (SFS)
- Manager, UWL Health/Occ Safety/Sust Program: Dan Sweetman
- UWL Parking and Transportation: Victor Hill
- Bike Share contacts: Margot Higgins and Mitch Bunting
- Monthly UW-System Coordinator calls: Guy Herling

IV. New Business

Mitch and Logan met with Bob Hetzel for a wide range meeting.

Talked about the 3-5 year plan for the green fund and how it can be used.

Got some feedback from Dr. Hetzel regarding specific grants.

Is there an issue with UWL relying upon the Green Fund to fund things that should be coming from other budgets? We should be careful to avoid this.

They talked about Stars certification (but not Leeds) but it sounds like that needs to go through the Provost office.

Large Grants Review

We briefly reviewed the evaluation criteria in the Green Fund bylaws.

### **1- Dan Sweetman- Laux Hall LED Lighting**

Bob Hetzel was of the opinion that residence life should pay for half since this was a dorm.  
Replacing the lights is less-expensive than renovating the existing fixtures.  
The old bulbs will get recycled as will the metal from the old fixtures.

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?  
13 – 0 – 1 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?  
High- 10  
Medium- 3  
Low- 0

### **2- Paying the cost differential for replacing Whitney Smoothies with biodegradable plant-based “plastics.”**

The environmental savings tend to be in how the cups are made.  
There is also a bonus from these cups raising the awareness and visibility of “green” choices.  
We raised questions about the lack of details regarding the kinds of cups to be purchased.  
There were also questions regarding what would happen to these cups (compostable or not). It sounded like they would just be incinerated.  
There’s also a small grant proposal coming up with distributing re-usable smoothie cups.  
The smoothie place does allow you to use your own cup.

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?  
14 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?  
High- 0  
Medium- 11  
Low- 5

### **3- Stadium LED lights- Dan Sweetman. Replacing 14 of the pole lights with LED lights.**

Bob Hetzel didn’t have much to say about this one besides the idea of making the proposal larger.

Although these are practically the last ones one campus that aren’t LED  
Questions regarding the visibility and education aspects of this grant.  
This can be mentioned on the website  
Margot Higgins mentioned Western Tech. having a sign that advertises their sustainable features. She wasn’t sure about the educational aspect of this grant.  
Some questions regarding the UV content of LED lights, but most LED lights do not create any UV light.

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?  
15 – 0 – 1 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?  
High- 11

Medium- 4

Low- 0

#### **4- Dan Sweetman. Replacing REC features in the field house from florescent features to LED bulbs.**

Very sound return to investment just on electricity bill alone.

Similar concerns with the REC hall generating revenue and the possibility of a split of the costs.

Is there a way for the savings these investments create to go back into the Green Fund?

That would likely be very difficult to figure out budget-wise

We would likely have to raise the question with Bob Hetzel and SUFAC

UWL has an existing account with Xcel that gets a system rate.

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

15 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High- 11

Medium- 4

Low- 0

#### **5- Portable Event Lights**

Zach Kuschel- Event lighting gets used for any major function on campus. These lights get used a few times a week.

The new lights would be able to be used more.

Any info on the durability and lifespan of the batteries?

2 ½ year lifespan. Can be replaced.

The old ones would be kept or sold

The lights would be able to be plugged in, but still use the batteries.

Is the equipment rented for events?

Yes. \$50 for uplighting. Probably would be the same per event.

But that money goes to staff and set up. So not exactly revenue generating.

The lighting is a bit less, but still adequate.

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

16 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High- 0

Medium- 12

Low- 3

#### **6- Zagster Bike Share**

Bob Hetzel said he does not support the grant in e-mail communication.

He is concerned how the rental bikes in the REC center are not being used as much.

And the Green Bike rental has also declined.

He felt the green fund is more for community outreach

He felt that only 25 Universities have adopted it. (Some feel that number is closer to 60)

This is a pilot project, where it's only for 2 years.  
Margot Higgins said that Zagster is the most-used bike share program on campuses.

Any conversations with Sue White about expanding the green bikes  
And Nathan who runs the Green bike program  
They're working on a bike share program for Quiktrip.  
For 12 bikes, 1400 each.  
Nathan thinks we could incorporate this into the green bike program.

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

13 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High- 12

Medium- 2

Low- 1



University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

## Joint Committee for Environmental Sustainability

1725 State Street | La Crosse, WI 54601

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday, December 6, 2019

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Student Senate Chambers - 3201

In Attendance: **Kris Rolfhus, Mitch Bunting, Katherine Fish, Adam Driscoll, Steven Fulton, Andrew Ericson, Kelly Flynn, Ben Zess, Alaina Goodreau, Logan Furniss, Zach Kuschel, Dan Sweetman, Barrett Klein, Tesia Marshik, Pearl Bearhart, Drea Higgins, Natalia Frinak**

17 total

I. Call to Order (K. Rolfhus, 11:04)

II. JCES Schedule

Room 2310 Union – every other Friday, 11–12 pm.

(~~9/13~~, ~~9/27~~, ~~10/11~~, ~~11/22~~, 12/6, 2/7, 3/6, 3/27, 4/10, 5/8)

Room 325 Graff Main -- (~~10/25~~, ~~11/8~~, 4/24)

Room TBA -- (2/21)

III. Membership: Changes after this semester?

- Co-Chairs: Mitch Bunting and Kris Rolfhus
- Recording Secretary: Adam Driscoll
- Sustainability Webpage Manager: Ben Zess
- Faculty/AS: Driscoll, Fish, Fulton, Herling, Marshik, Rolfhus
- Environmental Studies: Margot Higgins, Alysa Remsburg
- University Staff: Pearl Bearhart
- Students: Alaina Goodreau (SoE), Mitch Bunting (GF), Logan Furniss (GF), Kelly Flynn (SFS), Ben Zess (SFS)
- Manager, UWL Health/Occ Safety/Sust Program: Dan Sweetman
- UWL Parking and Transportation: Victor Hill
- Bike Share contacts: Margot Higgins and Mitch Bunting
- Monthly UW-System Coordinator calls: Guy Herling

(Go through and check these against Kris' updates)

Kris will not be able to attend meetings next term, so we will need another co-chair.

Barret Klein will be able to attend fully next term.

Adam Driscoll will also not be able to attend next term, so we'll need another secretary.

#### IV. New Business

Guest, Leanne Hedberg (PhD), has questions for JCES about sustainability improvements at UWL over time

PhD in strategic management. Looking at how organizations can contribute to sustainability.

Was the president of Hillview Urban Ag. Center  
Working on sustainability in higher education.

Dr. Hedberg is looking to talk to somebody on the faculty side regarding sustainability  
Is in contact with the sustainability coordinators

Thinking about sustainability coordinators

Other coordinators might have ideas and suggestions for how to fund a similar position here (as they have gone through this process at those other institutions)

Having the coordinator makes a significant difference  
Serves to tie together a wide range of efforts and individuals

Was talking to Madison's sustainability coordinator  
They were lacking before, but now they're hiring six new positions

We might try to fold the position into the rewrite of the strategic plan

Barret met with his alumni donator

If you invest a million dollars, you get a 50,000 dollar position  
He would be interesting in meeting with us next February

Leanne is looking into institutional pathways toward sustainability  
Institutional legacies or pathways as well as barriers

We discussed UW-La Crosse' recycling history (started 1991 as mandated by state law)

Discussions on mini GF grants 1-13.

Not to exceed \$5,000 per project and required to meet the same criteria as large green fund applications.

The sustainability fliers were shared.

The larger grant proposals have gone through SUFAC and are now at Student Senate

Lots of great discussion at the senate meeting.

Sounds like positive receptions to all of the grants

The one grant running into controversy was the Zagster Bike Share

However, the Student Senate discussed it.

They want to see that passed along to Bob Hetzel (again).

Some students had questions regarding some of Dan's grants.

Dan has met with them and is going to pull together the data to address their concerns regarding return on investment.

Some of those questions regard the degree to which we should be prioritizing return on investment verse broader sustainability goals.

Some of the concerns dealt with worries about draining the fund.

Regarding the ability to divert some of the money saved by these improvements back into the Green Fund.

All of the PR programs are required to pay for their utilities (Dan)

Larry **Ringerberg**

There are also a lot of issues concerning **allocables and non-allocables**  
Doesn't sound like a clean process.

### **1- Meatless Mondays, Natalia Frinak (w. Olivia Clark)**

Overview of what Meatless Mondays is (a movement to reduce meat consumption)

146 campuses in the nation are participating (non in the UW System)

Overview of the environmental consequences of animal agriculture

The goal of the grant is to help normalize the movement.

Currently have 465 student signatures.

According to a survey of Psych students there is support for the initiative  
(Primarily motivated by health concerns)

They are asking for funds for posters, pins, tshirts, and stickers (\$385)

Would they be taking free measures like the digital boards?

They are going to

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

14 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High- 14

Medium-

Low-

### **2- Straws**

They are very conscious of the allergen concern

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

12 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High-

Medium-

Low-

### **3- BLANK**

Discussion

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

13 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High-  
Medium-  
Low-

#### 4- BLANK

Discussion

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

13 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High-  
Medium-  
Low-

#### 5- BLANK

Discussion

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

13 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High-  
Medium-  
Low-

#### 6- BLANK

Discussion

Does proposal meet Green Fund criteria?

13 – 0 – 0 (For-Against-Abstain)

Which ranking should it be given?

High-  
Medium-  
Low-

#### V. Old Business

Goals for the year—Chancellor Gow will likely visit on 2/7/20

May 16th, 2019

To: Betsy Morgan  
Provost/Vice Chancellor

From: Natalie Eschenbaum  
Faculty Senate Chair

Re: Petition for a Sustainability Coordinator by the Student Senate

At its May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting, the Faculty Senate endorsed the Student Senate endorsement for a Sustainability and Resilience Coordinator at UWL.

NE/am

Enclosure

CC: JESC Committee Members  
Aaron Nielsen, Sr. Admin Specialist



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE  
**STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

**SA1819-038: Resolution to Support and Endorse the Petition for a Sustainability Coordinator**

DATE: March 5, 2019

AUTHOR(S): Samantha Wolfe

SPONSOR(S): Students for Sustainability, Bennet Thering, K.C. Cayo

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) is committed to working towards sustainable environmental excellence;

WHEREAS UWL collects student segregated fees for the Green Fund so students and faculty can write grants to implement sustainable projects on campus;

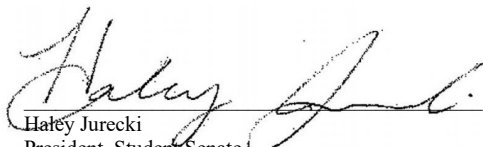
WHEREAS sustainable projects and programs implemented on UWL campus could continue to be facilitated after students complete projects and/or leave UWL;

WHEREAS the position of Sustainability Coordinator would benefit the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse by dedicating resources to the betterment of sustainable practices across different departments;


WHEREAS similar universities in the UW system such as UW-Oshkosh, UW- Eau Claire, and UW-Whitewater have dedicated resources to the position of Sustainability Coordinator;

WHEREAS the position of Sustainability Coordinator would centralize the sustainable efforts of the Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Student Association, the Green Fund, and Students for Sustainability;

WHEREAS the chancellor’s Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability unanimously endorsed the Talloires Declaration in 2007 with intents for “strategic discussion and action concerning sustainability and environmental literacy on campus,” as written in their document, Moving Toward a Sustainable Future at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse;

  
Haley Jurecki  
President, Student Senate  
Vice President, Student Association

3-13-2019  
Date

  
Benjamin O'Connell  
President, Student Association

3-13-2019  
Date



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

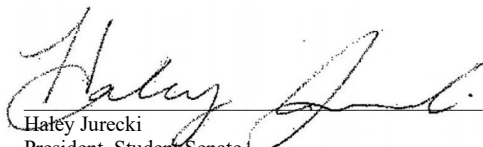
WHEREAS Chancellor Joe Gow agreed with the committee's findings and signed the Talloires Declaration on Earth Day, April 22, 2008;

WHEREAS having the position of Sustainability Coordinator would supplement our strategic plan by investing in our people, advancing transformational education, and increasing community engagement;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; UWL- Student Association will support and endorse the petition for the position of Sustainability Coordinator to be created on our campus that reads:

*Members of Students for Sustainability have created this petition with the intention of showing administration that there is student support for creating a Sustainability Coordinator position on our campus. Currently, UWL is one of the only UW schools without a sustainability coordinator. Other comparable universities including UW-Oshkosh, UW-Eau Claire, and UW-Whitewater have been able to create this position. A Sustainability Coordinator would positively impact many different aspects of campus life. The United Nations created a list of 17 sustainable development goals including promoting good health and well-being, quality education, equality, and creating peace and justice in our institution. By adhering to these goals, a Sustainability Coordinator would have a positive impact on all students attending our university and create a more resilient community.*

*We, the undersigned students of UW-La Crosse, believe that sustainability is a priority in budget considerations and a Sustainability Coordinator position should be implemented.*

  
Haley Jurecki  
President, Student Senate  
Vice President, Student Association

3-13-2019  
Date

  
Benjamin O'Connell  
President, Student Association

3-13-2019  
Date

## Sustainability and Resilience Coordinator | Draft Position Proposal

Joint Committee for Environmental Sustainability (JCES) | May 2019

### I. Background

The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse (UWL) has a history of activities that seek to further environmental sustainability. In 2007, the Chancellor formalized this commitment with the signing of the Talloires Declaration and the creation of the Joint Committee for Environmental Sustainability (JCES) with the intent of “strategic discussion and action concerning sustainability and environmental literacy on campus.” The committee laid a groundwork for sustainability with its report *Moving Toward a Sustainable Future at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse*.<sup>1</sup>

While the JCES and Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) have made progress addressing environmental sustainability since 2007, many efforts in sustainability have been delayed or curtailed due to a lack of centralized leadership. Current JCES structure does not allow for extended work in the implementation or evaluation of sustainability goals. Additionally, the position of Environmental Health, Safety, and Sustainability Manager in FPM is limited in both scope and time, with only a small portion of responsibilities dedicated to campus-wide sustainability efforts. The lack of full-time, campus-wide sustainability coordination sets UWL more than a decade behind most peer and aspirant institutions (see Figure 1).

In parallel to sustainability discussions and efforts on campus, the scientific consensus on the need for sustainability and climate action has become increasingly clear. In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>2</sup> concluded that global net anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must reach zero by 2050. In addition to anthropogenic climate change, sustainability issues of waste, pollution, and managed growth are increasingly relevant and interrelated to nearly all areas of study at UWL.

Below is a rationale—both philosophical and technical—for the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator position at UWL. Additionally, the committee has included four example draft position descriptions that seek to fill these identified needs in creative ways. These are based loosely on sustainability coordinator positions at other UW-System and regional institutions of higher education. This information was compiled by a subcommittee of the JCES and is intended to help answer the questions of Faculty Senate related to a Student Senate Resolution and petition in support of the creation of a sustainability coordinator position. The JCES recognizes that a position description as well as funding mechanisms need to be formalized in collaboration with administration, human resources and other relevant entities. It is the hope of the subcommittee that this document can be useful in beginning those discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.uwlax.edu/globalassets/offices-services/chancellor/moving\\_toward\\_a\\_sustainable\\_future.pdf](https://www.uwlax.edu/globalassets/offices-services/chancellor/moving_toward_a_sustainable_future.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/summary-for-policy-makers/>



## II. Rationale

### a. Educational Rationale and the Bigger Picture

- i. The vision statement of UWL is “to foster within each student the curiosity, creativity, and tenacity necessary to solve the regional, national, and international challenges of the 21st century.” Mounting scientific and international consensus describes global climate change as one of the most persistent and far-reaching challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Sustainability coordination on campus would prepare students to meet this and other social-environmental challenges, and allow UWL to become a leader for responsible stewardship.
- ii. Sustainability is interwoven into each pillar of the UWL’s Strategic Plan; this coincides with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). In particular, the UNSDG notes that sustainability is particularly intersectional with goals of equity and diversity, as the burden of environmental pollution and climate change falls disproportionately on underrepresented groups and the economically marginalized.<sup>3</sup> With an eye to the future, failing to meet sustainability goals would amount to divestment, rather than investment, in our people and our community.

### b. Direct Needs and Opportunities

- i. *Coordinate and implement sustainability-related activities on campus including the development, management and assessment of a coherent campus-wide sustainability program.*
  1. At present, there is no campus-wide comprehensive sustainability plan, or assessment of sustainability activities.
- ii. *Manage sustainability web presence and serve as the contact person for media and community*
  1. Currently the sustainability web-presence is, at best, occasionally updated by a variety of sources: Facilities Management, Student Centers, and volunteer faculty and students. The current model allows information to become out-of-date and does not represent current activities and connections to internal or external constituencies.
  2. There is no central contact point for outside constituencies to request information or propose collaboration related to sustainability.
- iii. *Administer the Green Fund*
  1. The administration of the Green Fund (funded by student referendum through allocable student segregated fees) is currently diffused through University Centers, Student Senate, the Student Fee Allocation Committee and the Joint Committee for Environmental Sustainability. The addition of a Sustainability Coordinator, could centralize this administration.
  2. The lack of supervision and dedicated financial administration has proven detrimental to the utilization of these funds.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2015/wp145\\_2015.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2015/wp145_2015.pdf)

- a. In the spring of 2019, Student Senate voted to further restrict the use of these funds due, in part, to concerns about lack of oversight for students paid for sustainability activities through the Green Fund. As such, some beneficial projects will never be initiated.
- iv. *Supervise student interns and employees; advise sustainability-related student groups*
- 1. There currently exists no centralized faculty or staff position to create, promote and supervise student interns performing sustainability work, including current student positions (indicated by number in parentheses) as:
    - a. Green Fund Coordinators (2)
    - b. Green Bike Coordinator/Mechanic Intern (1)
    - c. Vermicomposting Intern (1)
    - d. University Centers Sustainability Intern (1)
- v. *Manage campus certifications related to sustainability*
- 1. In spring 2015, UWL was awarded a Silver rating from the Sustainability and Assessment Rating System (STARS), which is administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. This award was made possible by the organizational work of several faculty members and the generous provision of a small amount of temporary reassigned time from then-Provost Macpherson and the Dean’s Council. The award not only began the process of organizing and evaluating campus sustainability measures, but brought positive media attention to UWL. The STARS certification lapsed in the spring of 2018 due to the lack of staffing and organizational structure.
- c. **Peer Institution Comparisons**

UWL remains one of only three 4-year institutions in the UW-System without at least 100% FTE in sustainability coordination (UW-Eau Claire filled such a position this past year). In the view of the JCES, this represents a substantial competitive disadvantage in recruitment and retention as well as missed educational and collaborative opportunities. The graph below reflects sustainability coordinator positions within the UW-System as of 2018. Note: Several campuses, including UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, have additional positions in campus sustainability not reflected in this data.

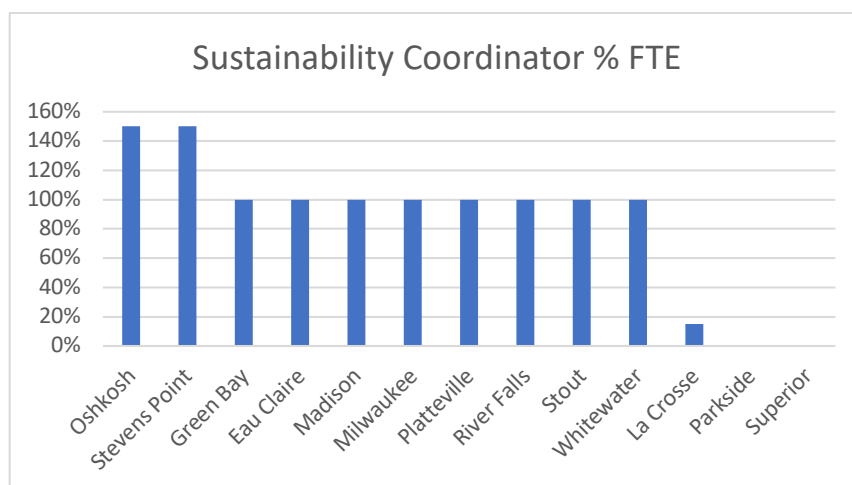


Figure 1.

### III. Position Description Options

*The FTE% divisions below and positional reports are merely suggestions. These position descriptions are provided solely as a basis for further discussion.*

All options include the fundamental campus-wide sustainability coordination activities detailed in the previous section. These include (briefly): managing sustainability activities, events, web presence and certifications; creating academic opportunities for students; supervising student workers/interns; and managing the green fund.

#### **Option A - The Eau Claire Model - "Facilities Partnership"**

##### **Position Outline**

###### *67% - Campus Sustainability Coordination*

- Coordinate and implement sustainability-related activities on campus including the development, management and assessment of a coherent campus-wide sustainability program.
- Manage the sustainability web presence, including the sustainability web page and social media accounts related to sustainability.
- Serve as the sustainability contact person for outside constituencies including but not limited to: media, community organizations, local government and business. Make connections between the campus and community to foster collaboration on sustainability issues in the city, state and region.
- Administer the Green Fund. Supervise student grants to assure progress towards stated goals, as approved by the JCES or Student Senate.
- Supervise student interns and employees, including the student Green Fund Coordinators.
- Advise and counsel sustainability-related student groups
- Manage campus certifications related to sustainability, including but not limited to STARS and the Department of Education Green Schools Program

###### *33% - Facilities Sustainability Management*

- Serve as point-person and institutional expert on sustainability issues in Facilities Planning, Construction and Management.
- Contribute to monitoring and implementation of sustainability certifications in the planning and construction of facilities and grounds.
- Coordinate campus recycling and waste initiatives, including comingled recyclables, metals and composting.
- Other responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management.

**Position Reports:** This position reports to the Chancellor as well as to the Executive Director of Facilities planning and Management

## **Option B - The Student-Centered Model – “Student Life Partnership”**

### **Position Outline**

#### *67% - Campus Sustainability Coordination*

- Coordinate and implement sustainability-related activities on campus including the development, management and assessment of a coherent campus-wide sustainability program.
- Manage the sustainability web presence, including the sustainability web page and social media accounts related to sustainability.
- Serve as the sustainability contact person for outside constituencies including but not limited to: media, community organizations, local government and business. Make connections between the campus and community to foster collaboration on sustainability issues in the city, state and region.
- Administer the Green Fund. Supervise student grants to assure progress towards stated goals, as approved by the JCES or Student Senate.
- Supervise student interns and employees, including the student Green Fund Coordinators.
- Advise and counsel sustainability-related student groups
- Manage campus certifications related to sustainability, including but not limited to STARS and the Department of Education Green Schools Program

#### *33% Sustainability in Student Life*

- Promote sustainability to students through participation or organization of student activities.
- Work with University Centers on sustainability initiatives in dining and entertainment.
- Advise and provide oversight for Student Life staff on issues of sustainability.
- Other responsibilities as assigned by the Director of University Centers

**Position Reports:** This position reports to Chancellor and the Director of University Centers

## **Option C - The Modified Western Tech Model - "Academic Partnership"**

### **Position Outline**

#### *67% - Campus Sustainability Coordination*

- Coordinate and implement sustainability-related activities on campus including the development, management and assessment of a coherent campus-wide sustainability program.
- Manage the sustainability web presence, including the sustainability web page and social media accounts related to sustainability.
- Serve as the sustainability contact person for outside constituencies including but not limited to: media, community organizations, local government and business. Make connections between the campus and community to foster collaboration on sustainability issues in the city, state and region.
- Administer the Green Fund. Supervise student grants to assure progress towards stated goals, as approved by the JCES or Student Senate.
- Supervise student interns and employees, including the student Green Fund Coordinators.
- Advise and counsel sustainability-related student groups
- Manage campus certifications related to sustainability, including but not limited to STARS and the Department of Education Green Schools Program

#### *33% Academic Coordination*

- Make connections between Faculty and Instructional Academic Staff (IAS) with teach or have research interests in sustainability, environmental studies or environmental science.
- Coordinate and assist in the review of scholarship requests for the Prairie Springs Endowment.
- Arrange for sustainability related tours or presentations on and off campus as requested by Faculty and IAS
- Offer professional development through the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CATL) for faculty and academic staff who wish to include issues of sustainability in their curriculum.
- Other responsibilities as assigned by the Provost

**Position Reports:** This position reports to the Provost or Dean's Council

## **Option D - The Stevens Point Model - "Advancement Partnership"**

**Position Reports:** This position reports to Chancellor as a member of the chancellor's cabinet. Position also reports to the Vice-Chancellors for Advancement and Admissions

### *67% - Campus Sustainability Coordination*

- Coordinate and implement sustainability-related activities on campus including the development, management and assessment of a coherent campus-wide sustainability program.
- Manage the sustainability web presence, including the sustainability web page and social media accounts related to sustainability.
- Serve as the sustainability contact person for outside constituencies including but not limited to: media, community organizations, local government and business. Make connections between the campus and community to foster collaboration on sustainability issues in the city, state and region.
- Administer the Green Fund. Supervise student grants to assure progress towards stated goals, as approved by the JCES or Student Senate.
- Supervise student interns and employees, including the student Green Fund Coordinators.
- Advise and counsel sustainability-related student groups
- Manage campus certifications related to sustainability, including but not limited to STARS and the Department of Education Green Schools Program

### *33% - Advancement*

- Work with the Campus Advancement Center to tell the story of sustainability and environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse through print and online media
- Collaborate with and identify donors and benefactors interested in sustainability environmental science and environmental studies.
- Other sustainability-related duties as assigned by the Vice Chancellor of Advancement

**Position Reports:** This position reports to the Chancellor as well as to the Vice Chancellor of Advancement