

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, September 10, 2021

Attendance: Andrew Ericson, Ben Zess, Guy Herling, Dan Sweetman, Brandon Anderson, Lisa Pitot, Sophie Byrne, Emily Roraff, Steve Fulton, Colin Belby, Margo Higgins

Business:

Selecting Chairs: Emily Roraff and Andrew Ericson volunteered; Lisa Pitot made 1<sup>st</sup> motion; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Fulton. Chairs approved 11-0-0

Selecting Recorder: Lisa Pitot volunteered; Andrew made 1st motion; 2<sup>nd</sup> by \_Emily

Recorder approved: 11-0-0

Before adjourning:

Dan Sweetman

- inquired about whether or not the UW Police building is allowed to apply for Green funding?
- Green fund Nov. 12 deadline
- Veronica Sands has been in contact with Dan to pursue LED lighting
- Talk to Dan if there are more projects that they want to work with facilities on?
- E.g. perhaps solar panels on the existing parking garage and /or
- New garage South of Center for the Arts

Meeting adjourned Motion – Sophie; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben; Vote: 11-0-0

11:35 adjourned

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, September 24, 2021

<https://uwlax-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

1. Approval of [9/10/21 Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion to approve: Steve ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jake. Passed 11-0-0

2. New Business

a. Meeting modality discussion centered on the following options

If meeting in the Union we can request a conference phone so people can call in.

- Students might find that being in person would be
- Options are good
- Important to be inclusive, prefer in person, with a call in or virtual option.
- Wings or Centennial both have the Zoom in capability.
- Pursue Green Funds for Student Union room so that

Emily and Andrew will continue to look into hybrid options and will get back to us!

i. Completely virtual

ii. Completely in-person in Student Union meeting room

iii. Hybrid in WING 102

iv. Mostly in person in SU, unless there is an extenuating circumstance (e.g. a committee member is quarantined, on leave but wants to join the meeting, etc.), in which case we will do something similar to what we did last Friday where there is one laptop connecting that person to the meeting.

v. Other options? Call in option using conference phone (Drea)

b. JCES goals for 21-22 academic year

i. Building off last year's efforts (See annual report)

Andrew – continue or increase efforts with groups on campus (any student, staff, or Faculty) to help with our previous goal related to hiring a Sustainability Coordinator. The goal being they would write letters of support for this position. Perhaps there could be a student petition that's disseminated.

- Some expressed that this has all be tried before and perhaps our efforts should be directed elsewhere. Other's said we should 'keep the heat on'
- Essential to increase student support since that's where \$ comes from.
- It might behoove us to highlight other UWL schools that have a sustainability coordinator despite their financial challenges.
- D & I support is essential too

ii. New initiatives

\*Fund 109 dollars is there someone who we can get to come talk with us about this

This fund incentivizes any savings in utility charges, the money comes back to the university.

- Bob Hetzel and Joe Gow should come together. Positives and negatives related to this. Joe Gow does need to give us our charge (scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>).

\*Additional ideas

- More equity focused ideas

- Diversity in Green Fund Applicants

- Reaching out to instructors

- Writing Center to hold a grant-writing workshop

- Green (Bike) share program & Bike racks on campus; Bike lanes; Bike structure/shelters within new parking structure; perhaps bike cage pilot; Discounted bike locks; Bike repair class

- Putting environmental ed requirement in General Education.

iii. Guest speaker requests

-Greg Reichert (?)

-Tara Nelson New director for Center for Transformative justice (starts November 4<sup>th</sup>)

-Betsy Morgan or Nadia Carmosini from Chemistry is the Gen Ed Committee chair.

3. Old Business

4. Announcements

a. Meeting added October 15<sup>th</sup> – Chancellor Gow scheduled to join - Student Association Chambers

b. UW System Annual Meeting, Nov. 11-12

i. Campus Update

5. Adjournment 12:00 Sophie Moved to Adjourn and Steve Second – passed unanimously!

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, October 8, 2021

Student Union 2310

In attendance: Emily Roroff, Andrew Ericson, Jake Johnston, Steve Fulton, Barret Klein, Dan Sweetman, Pearl Bearhart, Lisa Pitot, Veronica Sannes, Ben Zess, Kelly Voegele, Sophie Byrne  
On Conference call: Colin Belby, Brandon Anderson, Margot Higgins

6. Approval of [9/24/21 Meeting Minutes](#)

Move to approve: Jake; 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve; passed 13-0-0

7. New Business

- a. Discussion points for meeting with Chancellor Gow – He will be here at the beginning of our meeting next week.
  - i. Sustainability Coordinator position – keep the pressure on! Move this to the end of the agenda
  - ii. Where is Strategic Planning?
  - iii. State of the University 2021-2022
  - iv. Position / UWL’s status on divestment from Fossil Fuels
  - v. Secure bike locking locations on campus – in order to increase alternative transportation
  - vi. EV charger on campus (?) – or perhaps Dr. Hetzel is the one to talk about it with when he comes to one of our meetings.
- b. Adding Solar Panels to Existing Buildings (Andrew Ericson)
  - i. Solar contractor from Onalaska gave Andrew breakdowns of where solar panels could be installed
  - ii. Still have to determine if the buildings can handle the infrastructure. – Andrew will be meeting with people who can provide insight into this next week.
  - iii. Recommend to JPB though they may push it back to the Green Fund
  - iv. Grant funding and/or Fundraising
  - v. Johnson Controls (?) Ben suggested them since they have funded projects around the city
  - vi. Oppose supporting new parking garage for Solar, it could draw support for better parking, which does not align with our value of trying to promote car-free options.
  - vii. Conservation efforts might offer more return on investments
    1. Outreach and education to the UWL community – use existing videos and electronic signage to feature these “hidden” projects
    2. Getting the word out is important

3. E.g Wittich renovation
4. UWL's website – sustainability webpage
- c. Earth Day and Sustainability Speaker Series (Sophie Byrne)
  - i. Planning UW Earth Day Festival more educational
    1. Driftless area Bioblitz
    2. Education about native plants; plant sale
  - ii. Speaker series
    1. Agriculture / organic farming
    2. If anyone knows of any speakers to feature, let Sophie know.
    3. MOSES – Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service
    4. Best to spread out speakers over multiple months rather than
  - iii. Funding – Greenfund, Campus Activities Board
- d. Subcommittees (Emily/Lisa) – maybe if the need arises.

Other new ideas:

- e. Sophie's idea – Plant identification signage
    - i. Steve suggested adding a layer to the GIS map that currently exists
    - ii. Native vs. Non-native species
    - iii. Use of QR Codes on signage for more information
  - f. Barrett – Bee species education
8. Old Business
  9. Announcements
    - a. Joe Gow – next week, 2310 Bluffs, Student Union
    - b. Nadia Carmesini – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>
  10. Adjournment
    - a. Ben moved to approve, Sophie seconded – approved

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, October 15, 2021

Student Union 2310

11. Approval of Minutes – Sophie moved to approve; Barret 2nded; Approved unanimously

12. Discussion with Chancellor Gow

JG – reported no new rise in COVID cases a few weeks post Octoberfest and push for vaccinations☺

- a. General state of University and status of strategic planning process (SPP)
  - i. Thankfully, ok (for the moment), due to federal assistance. We had a lot of loss last year from housing/food services
  - ii. Enrollment down a bit -lost a few hundred Jr./Sr. Good to note - our 1<sup>st</sup> year class is the largest in history
  - iii. Tuition freeze is going on 8 years, thankfully our chief business officer is excellent and keeps his eyes forward, ensuring that we do not accrue a deficit
  - iv. SPP – usually done when stable and things are going well, not sure we can say that due to the challenge of looking ahead and foreseeing what the public (students) will want, e.g. In person vs. Online degrees
  - v. Gow does support sustainability in our SP
  - vi. Commends us for keeping our eyes on sustainability
    1. Q regarding why not a vaccine mandate? Unfortunately, political nature of vaccines legal committees are ready to push back
    2. Trying to focus on incentives, currently 80% - 2<sup>nd</sup> to Madison
    3. Madison may be going towards mandate since Federal mandated funds
- b. Divestment in fossil fuels
  - i. System schools have been passing resolutions
  - ii. Isn't the first time this topic has come up
  - iii. University does not have money invested
  - iv. UWL Foundation – separate entity from university sets policies for what they do with money donated. They focus on making money and what they invest in is very complicated ~ \$30 million
  - v. Not sure if they are looking at divestment from fossil fuel companies
  - vi. Meeting with UWL Foundation President, Greg Reichert and a representative from the Board of Directors could be helpful in better understanding current investments
  - vii. Q for Dr. Gow – would you be willing to support a divestment statement

1. He would like to know what current investments are and how challenging it might be for divestment
  - a. Ben is willing to speak with the foundation and would like Gow's support, he would like more information & is open to the idea.
- c. Carbon neutrality - Has UWL made any commitment? City of La Crosse has made a commitment to get there by 2050.
  - i. Buildings on campus are owned by the state of Wisconsin
  - ii. No more coal is burned on campus
  - iii. There are plans to install more fuel efficiency gas burning boilers.
  - iv. Political nature of decisions related to looking into alternatives rather than fossil fuel
  - v. New buildings on campus are required to have a certain percentage of renewal energy production - New sustainability guide to follow - new buildings are going to be more sustainable.
  - vi. Q - regarding support for electric vehicles on campus?
    1. Push for When??
    2. New parking ramp planning process - Andrew will advocate for EV plug-in stations.
- d. Bike safety and security on campus
  - i. Dr. James Longhearst - we are missing
    1. Secure weather protected bike parking - proposals to have bike cages within parking garage; sheds attached to the side of the building
    2. Campus consistently has invested in auto commuting rather than other means
  - ii. Andrew shared results of a biking survey
    1. Solutions regarding bike theft - Bike parking garage, students need to swipe their ID to get into the area to lock their bike
  - iii. Gow - Louder voices are calling for parking infrastructure
  - iv. New call - build it and they will come! Value engineering intervention is needed
  - v. Biking safety - need lanes for where we want bikes and where we don't want bikes - we have 0.0 miles for bikes on campus, it's designed to force bikers into the pedestrian lanes.
  - vi. Concern that Vice Chancellor Hetzel blocks every effort to accommodating biking /bike safety on campus.
- e. Sustainability Coordinator - still high on our priority list.

### 13. New Business

Barrett - unfortunate that there's no top-down support for positive efforts to improve the environmental sustainability knowing its connection to mental health (?)

Speaker Ideas - TJ Brooks – Dean of College of Business – biking love; connection to community and \$; relationship with foundation; also has

Ralph Heath

Ideas – Green Fund giving day

Students for Sustainability will follow through with efforts to email administration

Students need to report bike thefts to make that data more visible

Staff carpool

14. Old Business

15. Announcements

16. Adjournment



## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, October 22, 2021

<https://uwlax-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

Attendance: Andrew Ericson, Steve Fulton, Brandon Anderson, Jake Johnston, Barrett Klein, James Longhurst, Tony Hansen, Kelly Voegele, Veronica Sannes, Dan Sweetman, Drea Higgins, Sophie Byrne

17. Approval of [10/15/21 Minutes](#)

18. New Business

- a. Andrew had a meeting with Chancellor Bob Hetzel about MTU bikes on campus. Q regarding cost? Yes, it will be \$5000. Q- will someone be submitting a Greenfund proposal for this? Yes, normally 10K / year, but MTU will cover half. Q – will MTU cover bike maintenance? James – suggested bringing in Jacob Sciammas to talk about their operation experiences. James further explained the benefits of using an external bikeshare company rather than the university buying bikes and running it on site. Q – do we have any prediction for usage? Have surveys suggested there would be frequent use of these bikes on or off campus? A – some analysis has been done, and we wouldn't be seeing these programs around town, again this is something Jacob might be able to answer. James shared “On the go” report – see attached.  
They also talked about solar on top of the residence halls and Dr. Hetzel was interested in hearing more about it. Also talked about Stars(?) and sustainability coordinator – not much in depth to say about that.  
Andrew also talked to Greg Reichert at the foundation. Felt positive overall about sustainability on campus.
- b. Action steps based on goals and meeting with Chancellor Gow – which in retrospect was rather positive.
  - i. Goals/Objectives:
    1. Diversity in Green Fund applications
    2. Bike safety and security on campus
    3. Sustainability Coordinator
    4. Learning more about Fund 109
      - a. Dr Hetzel is excited to come to a meeting to speak on Fund 109 dollars and other topics.
    5. Divestment in fossil fuels (Andrew to provide update on meeting with Greg Reichert) Dan shared that we would want to look into an alternative to total divestment, which would be looking at the

rating of the funds our foundation invests in and determine the rating through a resource like *Morningstar report*, which can be found in the library. Once we determine the current rating we can set goals to improve.

6. Sustainability and gen ed curriculum (Nadia Carmosini will attend 11/19 meeting) Andrew provided questions
7. Andrew is wondering whether we should bring in Betsy Morgan perhaps next semester to fill her in on our sustainability efforts.

Q – are we going to be writing green fund proposals regarding these initiatives?

A- probably not this semester, but definitely for the spring round of grants.

- c. Additional Meeting 11/12 to review green fund proposals

19. Old Business

20. Announcements

21. Adjournment

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, November 5, 2021

Student Union 2310

In attendance:

22. Approval of [Minutes from 10/22/21](#)

Motion to approve – Jake, 2nded Barret; approved

Approval of agenda – SAA; approved

23. New Business

a. Guest Speaker: Jacob Sciammas, Brandon Hunter (Drift Share)

Drift Cycle – Educational benefits – Field Trips; data analyses

Drift Cycle presentation – Currently 8 stations around town (orange bikes; orange racks)

→ goal to add 8 stations in 2022 including 3 at UWL

Economic impact studies – millions of \$'s of savings through Health; Transit & air quality;

La Crosse Neighborhood; City; County; & Beer by Bike Brigade

Benefits – Vibrant community; reduce traffic; increase health

Signage at stations include room for advertising

Pricing – Sponsors get 50% off

b. Solar at UWL update (Andrew)

a. Can we at ways to include photovoltaic cells to rez halls as they are updated?

b. E.g. 1<sup>st</sup> project at Rouse hall – go back and retrofit and have it be a model (?)

c. Funding – Res life and Green Fund.

d. On another note – Lot near Stadium (C-2) when it was re-done included the infrastructure for a charging station. Similarly the new parking garage will have the same.

i. Q – perhaps a poll for staff and faculty

c. Discussion Points for Greg Reichert (December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting) UWL Foundation president – importance of divestment

a. What are the constraints of UWL divesting totally?

b. Interest in divestment with Social Justice in mind

c. What money is currently invested in our community?

d. Would they consider sponsoring the e-bikes?

e. Does UWL accept every single donation that's given regardless of the source?

f. Does it feel like the foundation is free from politics?

- g. Do they run by the same 4 pillars that UWL has for our strategic plan or do they have their own?
- h. Do we have to wait until Madison divests or can we do that on our own? Or take the lead on that?
- i. How much say do individual donors at UWL have?

#### 24. Old Business

#### 25. Announcements

- a) November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (voting on Green Fund grants)
- b) Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Nadia Carmencini – here to talk

#### 26. Adjournment

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, November 12, 2021

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

In attendance: Andrew Ericson, Emily Roraff, Barret Klein, Margot Higgins, Brandon Anderson, Daniel Sweetman, Drea Higgins, Kelly Voegele, Jake J., Sophie Byrne, Pearl B, Mortitz, Grace McGrath, Jacob Sciammas, Christina Mehrkens, Derek N., Meghan McFarling, Lisa Pitot

### 27. Approval of [Minutes from 11/5/21](#)

Motion to approve Margot – Seconded Dan S, approved

Approval of Agenda

### 28. New Business

#### a. Green Fund Proposals ([Green Fund Bylaws](#))

##### i. Esports and Outdoor Connections LED Grant

1. Andrew shared PowerPoint outlining this grant

2. Motion Jake – Drea 2<sup>nd</sup> ; motion passed 1-0-1

Questions on actual amount of energy savings and whether or not the change in light fixtures would be part of the updated space anyway. These questions will be sent to Outdoor Connections and the next step on the chain (Student senate, etc.) will be able to hear the response when the grant comes up for another vote.

Vote on Priority ranking Motion Sophie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jake

Low - 3

Medium - 12

High -

##### ii. Drift Share Grant

1. SAA

2. Motion to approve as acceptable Drake ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Drea

Vote on Priority ranking Motion Sophie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jake

high – 14

Medium - 1

#### b. Bean Sprouts – Make your own bean sprouts

#### c. Usage of disposable masks – tabled until next time

### 29. Old Business

### 30. Announcements

a) Recorder for 11/19 meeting

31. Adjournment -

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, November 19, 2021

Student Union 2310

In attendance: Andrew Ericson, Barret Klein, Margot Higgins, Brandon Anderson, Drea Higgins, Steve Fulton, Jake Johnston, Sophie Byrne, Derek Norby, Colin Belbe , Ben Zess, Tara Nelson, Dan Sweetman, Emily Roraff. **I am sure I missed some folks who were present.**

Open to zoom

### 32. Approval of 11/12 Minutes--Approved

- a. Approval—Jake J.
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup>—Barret K.

### Approval of Agenda—Approved

- a. Approval—Jake J.
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup>—Barret K.

### 33. New Business

- a. Guest Speaker: Nadia Carmosini, Assistant Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry; Chair of General Education Committee (GEC)
  - i. Discuss our GE revisions
    1. Reduce number of credits—41
    2. Revamps the GE categories
    3. Website that details the progress
      - a. <https://www.uwlax.edu/faculty-senate/general-education/gened-program/>
    4. Reviewing the new categories from 04-2020 proposal (broadening of categories so that *all* departments can offer classes to fit under these categories). Proposal found here: <https://www.uwlax.edu/globalassets/committees/faculty-senate/ge-proposal-and-rationale-april-14-2020-clean-copy.pdf>
      - a. First year courses (13 units)
      - b. University Core (16 units)
      - c. Integrative perspectives (12 units) Most contentious aspect of the revision.
        - i. Global Emphasis Component (not toward GE categories—can “double count”)

1. Must complete Study abroad, international studies minor, Peace Corp, international internship, international focused research capstone
  2. Complete a language course
  3. 2 global emphasis courses (different prefix)
- ii. The Stories We Tell
  - iii. The Pasts that Define Us
  - iv. The Planet that Sustains Us—infuse sustainability to our campus. **Probably of most interest to us.** Brand new category and very exciting. Hypothetically, every student has to take a course in this category.
    1. Description: “Understanding the interaction between humans and their environment is crucial to maintaining a sustainable use of natural resources for a healthy world. Students will learn about environmental issues that exist or are likely to arise in the future. Students will understand, and articulate perspectives on, the complex interactions between society and the natural world by synthesizing the scientific, ethical, and cross-cultural context of environmental matters.”
    2. Colin—Question/Comment: In order to implement these changes, we had to make some difficult decision that impact departments on campus (languages/arts). Students need to read this and advocate for their values and their desires. It is possible that this new piece will be pulled out as territorial discussions/deliberations take place.
    3. Drea--Question/Comment: Student referendum & student input opportunities? Would that help?
      - a. WE are hearing a lot from departments but not from students. Needed inclusion in our deliberations.
    4. Margot--Question/Comment: Eviro 201 meets those goals.



- a. Environmental Studies fits these components
  - b. Pre-reqs have the potential to complicate this
- 5. Colin--Question/Comment: Student Input: in the early phases, there was significant student input—that input fizzled out as it moved through the committee and COVID. We could use some more student engagement/input in these conversations.
- 6. Barrett--Question/Comment: Proposing GE courses
  - a. Find the info online (see link above)
  - b. Look to learning objectives
  - c. Anne Galbraith—great touchpoint.
- 7. Tara--Question/Comment: What kind of support services are in place for faculty who are concerned that they might not be able to fit into the new categories—resources?
  - a. Time to develop these classes.  
Projected release of new GE: 2023
  - b. No resources for training. We may be too early.
- 8. Andrew--Question/Comment: When does the Faculty G.E. Committee meet?
  - a. 3:30-5:30 pm every 1 & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month
  - b. 325 Graff Hall
  - c. Next meeting is Dec 6<sup>th</sup>
- 9. Sophie--Question/Comment: Do you have presence from academic advising center? It might be useful to have advisors on the committee to have a voice from the students...speak to trends.
  - a. Advisors are consultants, but do not have a vote.
  - b. Committee gets info from institutional research.
- 10. Would students be able to get most GEs from their major departments?
  - a. Currently, Majors do not align with the GE requirements, but the new

- option may offer greater possibilities.
- b. Departments need to begin thinking about how we can create classes that fit these new categories.
- d. Had to cut off the discussion because of time. Nadia said she would stay after.

### 34. Old Business

- a. Use of Disposable Masks on Campus
  - i. Pearl—
    - 1. Huge jump in mask usage this semester (see email for further information).
      - a. Average usage/week I order between 18,000 and 22,000 masks per week.
      - b. Roughly how many so far this term Approximately 160,000 masks this year
      - c. Which buildings seem to go through the most Centennial Hall and Mitchell Hall
    - 2. Do we have ideas on how to mitigate the usage?
      - a. Is it messaging? Training?
      - b. Barrett—Green Fund grant for reusable masks to pass out.
        - i. Andrew—it is hard to get students to use them
      - c. Andrew—messaging near bins
        - i. Margot agreed and suggested quick turn around on creating signage. Possible Greenfund.
      - d. Andrew—Less masks offered across campus 😊
      - e. Barrett—greater video presence offered to students. Discussing the science of masks.
      - f. Ben—UWEC—Free masks to every student and do not offer disposable. Students encouraged to bring their own masks.
        - i. At this point more education will not change behavior.
      - g. Margot—Discuss masks in our classes, it is out of convenience
      - h. Sophie—discuss about student sensitivities (skin issues with cloth masks) and needs.
      - i. Dan—vaccination is the way forward. More vaccinations the quicker we can get rid of masks.

- j. Brandon-discuss the numbers. The reality of the situation around usage may cause some students to contemplate their usage. Also, if we offered masks, thinking about branding with UWL may increase their usage.
- k. Barrett- the discussion about sensitivities is significant and not often discussed.
- l. Steve- Greater emphasis on vaccinations, Steve agreed with what Dan stated earlier. It is the way out of the pandemic.
- m. Bring in access center and public health into the conversation. They might offer great information to help provide more adequate needs.
- n. Barrett—need more numbers on protest masks? Is there any way to know how many are simply being wasted?
  - i. In Murphy, there has been times that custodial has witnessed stacks of masks thrown into the garbage.

### 35. Announcements

- a. Winter Break subcommittees
  - i. Next semester—important meetings Hetzel/Morgan
  - ii. What are the topics that we need to engage with them? How should we gather information to be better prepared for these discussions?
    - 1. Charging stations
    - 2. Biking infrastructure
    - 3. Mask usage
    - 4. GE Requirements
- b. Last meetings of the semester
  - i. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>—With Greg Reichert
  - ii. Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

### 36. Adjournment

- a. Motion—Jake
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup>—Veronica

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, December 3, 2021

Student Union 2310

In attendance: Andrew Ericson, Margot Higgins (online) Emily Roraff, Sophie Byrne, Steve Fulton, Tony, Lisa Pitot, Barrett, Colin Belbe, Pearl, Jake, Dan Sweetman, Drea Higgins, Ben Zess, Tara Nelson

Brandon Anderson, Jake Johnston, Derek Norby,

### 37. Approval of [11/19 Minutes](#)

Move to approve – Sophie

Motion passed –

### Approval of Agenda

Move to approve – Sophie ; Second - Barrett

Motion passed –

### 38. New Business

- a. Guest Speaker: Greg Reichert, UWL Foundation President
  - b. He will attempt to address: Divestment in fossil fuels
    - i. Investment portfolio of UWLF
    - ii. Level of autonomy UWLF has in regards to Madison and UW System
    - iii. UWLF funding of sustainability projects
    - iv. Criteria for accepting donations
    - v. UWLF strategic plan
- Greg came to UWL in 2012 in 2015 took on president role in Foundation now 50/50 shared role
  - Everything they do is to support the university; “to promote the welfare” of the university
  - 24 individuals serve on the board
    - 20 independently elected – mostly alumni, mostly local (one in FoCo- Mike McGinley)
    - 4 are *ex officio* (Chancellor; Vice chancellor for admin & finance; President/Vice Chancellor for advancement; Alumni board chair) only alumni board chair can vote out of these 4
  - Operate independently from UW Madison foundation except all things are scrutinized from UW system. (iii)
  - 6 working committees (Executive, Finance, Audit, Governance, Philanthropy & Community engagement, & Investment)
  - Foundation has its own strategic plan w/ different pillars, very much directed by the university’s priorities (v)

- Fundraising priorities are determined by UWL, but donor’s wishes always come first – the university & foundation can and have said “thanks, but not thanks” to donors.
- Investment committee – 5 board members & 5 citizen/ alumni that work in the investment arena); Reviews investment performance, monitors Investment Policy Statement, makes recommendations for changes to the full board.
  - The foundation does not invest in individual stocks. Equity Funds (similar to mutual funds) are used to maximize diversity in portfolio.
- Investment Portfolio – As of 10/31/21 ~ \$35.5 million (ii)
  - Employ 2 private managers (Alpha Investments & BMO – soon switching to TrustPoint a local firm)
  - Asset allocation Guidelines
    - Equities 60% (domestic 45%, international
    - Fixed Income 35%
    - Alternatives/Cash 5%
- Request from the most recent RFP: “Describe how you accommodate requests for socially responsible or targeted investments”.
- Objective – 4% growth to cover expenses
- As of 10/31/21 2.63% associated with stocks/bonds in Energy Industry – that includes fossil fuels as well as green energy
- Don’t believe any funds currently are ESG designated but would need to confirm w/ advisors
- Next steps – request a conversation w/ the Investment committee and outline our (JCES) proposal.

#### 39. Old Business

#### 40. Announcements

- a. Subcommittees (Bike infrastructure, EV infrastructure, Divestment, & General Education)
- b. Social Justice Week – Tara
- c. Mini green fund grant - Andrew

#### 41. Adjournment

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, December 10, 2021

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

In attendance: Andrew, Emily, Barret Klein, James Longhurst, Brandon Anderson, Daniel Sweetman, Derek Norby, Jake Johnston, Jenna Rollin, Sarah Mosley (guest) Jenna Ceranski, Mark Stoskopf, Megan Miller, Moritz, Pearl, Sarah Fulton, Sophie Byrn, Tara Nelson, Veronica, Lisa Pitot

42. Approval of [12/3 Minutes](#)

Motion: Sophie; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Moritz; minutes approved

43. New Business

- a. Update on the “marsh road” project (James Longhurst)
    - i. Long History... new proposal to extend US 53 “la crosse corridor and Will require the largest EIS of the region; it will start in late summer/fall of 2022
    - ii. Perhaps this is a solution for a long standing
    - iii. Push to follow the TPC, pay attention to WISDOT’s page
    - iv. <https://wisconsin-dot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/couleeregion/default.aspx>
    - v. Important for River studies program and Friends of the Marsh
  - b. Tower Gardens Mini Grant Proposal
    - i. Jenna R., Mark, Jenna C., and Megan presented their project on revival of Tower Gardens
    - ii. Sarah Mosley – will oversee the clubs
    - iii. ? why they were discontinued – perhaps COVID and staff either retired or left UWL
    - iv. Location of towers? – approval outside of the union would have to go through Bob Hetzel.
    - v. Motion to approve: Steve Fulton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sophie – Approved 14-0-0
44. Winter Subcommittees Conveners will organize the group meeting over break; groups create action plans and be ready to share out by next meeting!
- i. Divestment
  - ii. Bike Infrastructure
  - iii. General Education
  - iv. Electric Car Infrastructure

Q1	Highest Rank	Q2_2	Q2_3	Q2_4	Q3
Name (First and Last)	Fossil Divestment	Fuel Bike Infrastructure	General Education Changes	Electric Car Infrastructure	If yo
Members	Divestment	Bike Infrastructure	General Education	Electric Car Infrastructure	
Convener	Andrew Ericson	Lisa Pitot	Brandon Anderson	Emily Roraff	
	Barret Klein	Moritz Ippisch	Jake Johnston	Kelly Voegele	
	Derek Norby	Margot Higgins	Dan Sweetman	Danny Franklin	
	Veronica Sannes	Ben Zess	Alysa Remsburg	Colin Belby	

45. Old Business

46. Announcements

→ Climate Justice Rally at clocktower Monday at 11 am.

47. Adjournment – 11:49 am.

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, January 28, 2022

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

### Attendance:

Andrew Ericson, Adam Driscoll, Steven Fulton, Katherine Kortenkamp, Emily Roraff, Lisa Pitot, Margot Higgins, Pearl Bearhart, Veronica Sannes, Brandon Anderson, Colin Belby, Kelly Voegele, Jake Johnston, Drea Higgins, Tara Nelson

### 48. Approval of [12/10 Minutes](#)

Motion to approve: Steve, Second: Brandon. Approve/Negative/Abstain: 9/0/1

Introductions were heard from everyone.

### 49. New Business

#### a. Update from Subcommittees

##### i. Divestment

The group talked about how we can approach the investment committee from the UWL Foundation instead of just saying something. The Foundation has a bylaw that guides their investment and there's nothing in there about sustainability (might open up some possibilities).

Action steps included staying in the sub-committee and meeting with the UWL divestment coalition and then set up some meeting with Greg Reichert.

##### ii. Bike Infrastructure

This committee was unable to meet over the J-term. They started forming a document outlining their vision. They wanted to work on signage and specifying bike lanes on campus. No action steps yet. Dr. Hetzel will be joining us later and we'll be able to address some questions regarding bike infrastructure to him.

##### iii. General Education

The group met last Friday and came up with some areas of interest and things they wanted to gain information about. (Brandon will share that document with us.) There was the question about the role of JCES in General Education. Also a question about what is currently behind the direction of General Education and guiding that design.



They also discussed whether or not we should be trying to play a more active role in G.E. and possibly having a representative at their committee meetings.

Colin was a part of the working group that originally proposed a sustainability category. We should likely talk to the Gen Ed. Committee (GPC?) regarding what we can do.

We should make sure that we look at other campuses and programs and see if they have courses/requirements similar to what we're looking for.

The Gen Ed program is currently working through what classes exist and how they fit into the various categories that exist.

One possibility is inviting Dr. Betsy Morgan to come talk to JCES (or the smaller committee) regarding this.

#### **iv. Electric Car Infrastructure**

This group met this week and put together a brief action plan. A lot of this topic would be best directed toward Dr. Bob Hetzel, but the first step will be reaching out to Troy Richter (parking director).

We should also research what other campuses are doing, possibly talking to other campuses' sustainability directors.

Also, possibly do a campus survey regarding EV needs and wants.

In the past, a lot of administrators have stated that we don't have sufficient demand to warrant investing in such infrastructure.

As far as we know, the parking garage has (or the new one will have?) the electrical wiring to support charging stations, but they don't currently have any stations or funding allocated to put the stations in.

Most of the other UW campuses have some manner of EV Infrastructure. (Most also have a sustainability coordinator or office)

It might be worth while getting an outside group to come in and set up a charging station so we could get some hard numbers on use and power cost, etc.

We would likely have to talk about this with Troy Richter and Scott Schumacher.

Emily put together a shared document for this subcommittee.

We could also use some information about how many charging stations are available on campuses across the nation.

We could also use some persuasive testimonials regarding current and/or future students expressing appreciation for the stations. This could then be spun as an effort toward recruitment and retention.

Possibly work it into the “Investing in our People” pillar of the strategic plan.

We could also contact other campuses that have charging stations to get their usage data. That might help our appeals to the higher-ups.

## **50. Old Business**

## **51. Announcements**

### **a. Spring committee membership update**

Barret Klein will not be able to join us, along with Ben Zess. They’ll try to stay looped in but will not be able to attend meetings regularly due to class conflict.

Katie will fill in as a faculty temporary member.

### **b. Meeting modality update**

We will continue to meet virtually for the immediate future, with possible exceptions for guest-speaker days.

### **c. Campus Thread**

We will have two (or possibly one) representatives from Campus Thread joining us. Two student managers are a part of the Campus Thread leadership (Campus Thread is a campus clothes closet). We will be having them come visit us to talk about their work this term.

## **52. Adjournment**

11:47

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, February 11, 2022

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

### Attendance:

Andrew Ericson, Adam Driscoll, Tara Nelson, Margot Higgins, Brandon Anderson, Steven Fulton, Emily Roraff, Pearl Bearhart, Veronica Pettigrew, Katherine Kortenkamp, Lisa Pitot, Jake Johnston, Drea Higgins, Georgia Werner-Hilgers, Tony Hansen, Kelly Gorres, James Longhurst, Derek Norby, Veronica Sannes, Kelly Voegele,

### 53. Approval of 1/28 Minutes

M/S- Lisa Pitot, Steve Fulton: 14-0-2

### 54. New Business

#### i. Campus Thread

Campus Thread collects lightly used clothing to make available to students.

They also attempt to raise awareness as to the environmental consequences of clothing and fashion.

It's a new organization/service and they're trying to get the word out to the campus body and students in particular.

The main location is in Common Grounds.

Campus Thread is mainly run by students. Complete student staff.

The current staff is working on making sure there's a plan for continuity so that they'll be bringing in new students as the older ones graduate out.

There's currently a plan in place where students work their way up in terms of positions of responsibility.

CTJ is the supervising group.

#### ii. Sustainability Coordinator Update

On Wednesday, Chancellor Gow mentioned that the students and Dr. Hetzel were working on a "deal" to make a sustainability coordinator position happen.

30,000 were committed by the administration, with the idea that the Green Fund would contribute the other 30,000.

The Green Fund brings in about 100,000 a year, so this would be almost 30% of the GF.

In the past, the GF has usually not been exhausted.

This would likely cut down on the amount of facilities-oriented projects that get funded.

There's also an element where if the position is partially funded by the GF, it makes the position a bit more student oriented.

While most other universities in the UW system have sus. Coordinators, very few of them are funded this way.

It seems like this is a combo of one of the three models being used by other institutions.

### **iii. Committee Updates**

#### **1. Vice Chair/Co Chair discussion (maybe election)**

Dan Sweetman is going to be stepping away from JCES.

Hopefully we can get someone else from facilities to step in.

Emily will be stepping into the role of interim budget director.

Therefore Emily will be stepping down from the committee.

Kelly Voegelé will be stepping into her position of co-chair for the rest of the term.

Emily Officially stated that she is stepping down as academic staff representative.

Kelly Gorres will be stepping in for just this semester.

Tara Nelson is transitioning out of the committee and Veronica Pettigrew (program coordinator for the center for transformative justice) will be taking her place on the committee.

Adam volunteered to served as vice chair.

M/S- Steve/Drea:17-0-1

### **iv. Electric Car infrastructure next steps discussion**

The plan was to issue a survey to students and faculty on how many people were interested in using a charging station.

What types of questions should we be asking:

- 1) Do you own an electric vehicle?
- 2) Do you know anyone on campus who owns an electric vehicle?
- 3) Do you anticipate owning an electric vehicle in the next five years?
- 4) How important is it to you that UWL provides charging stations for electric vehicles?
- 5) Is there anything that is holding you back from purchasing an electric vehicle?
- 6) Would you be more likely to purchase an electric vehicle if there were charging stations on campus?

- 7) (We should also ask about plug-in hybrids, separate questions or work it into the language of the main questions)
- 8) (We should make clear that we're only taking up a couple of parking spots)
- 9) Would you be likely to purchase a special parking permit if you had an electric vehicle? (If people are charging at specific spots, would parking want to have special permits?)
  - a. That would likely be dealt with in the billing for the spot.
- 10) Would you have any issues or problems with the university providing charging stations at the parking ramps?

When we send out the survey, we should make sure it's coming from the committee, so that it's clear who it's tailored to.

If we're looking for rationale or evidence to support this policy, 1000 friends of WI (ENV advocacy group) has some useful documentation at retrofitting existing infrastructure and city zoning issues with electric car infrastructure.

<https://www.1kfriends.org/the-road-to-clean-transportation/>

<https://www.1kfriends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/EV-Toolkit.pdf>

We could keep the survey transportation-oriented if we wanted to include some of the bike questions.

However, likely the divestment issue would be a different one issue.

We might want to put together the survey as a whole and then evaluate its length and decide if we want to split it up then.

#### **v. Divestment Subcommittee Update**

The sub-committee met with the UWDC, and thought that we were further along than many other campuses.

The conversations had with UWL Foundations is good progress.

In Madison, they were having trouble getting access to the foundation.

It's a bit unclear what our comparable campuses (UWSP, UWEC) are doing on this issue.

There is a March 4th to Earth Day, there will be an event every Friday.

The main effort is to protest line 5.

#### **55. Old Business**

#### **56. Announcements**

## **57. Adjournment**

11:52

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, February 25, 2022

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96225761538> (Meeting link)

### Attendance:

Andrew Ericson, Adam Driscoll, Kelly Voegele, Brandon Anderson, Kelly Gorres, Veronica Sannes, Grace Lopez Johnson, Katherine Kortenkamp, Veronica Pettigrew, Jake Johnston, Colin Belby, Steve Fulton, Drea Higgins

### 1. Approval of 2/11 Minutes

Motion/Second: Steve, Jake 10-0-0

### 2. New Business

#### i. Introductions

1. Name, pronouns, who you represent, how environmental sustainability plays a role in your life/ why you are interested in it.

We went around the “room” and everyone introduced themselves.

#### ii. Meeting modality preferences

We discussed

We can reserve the room for the 2022-23 year.

It seemed like the committee was fine staying with Zoom for now.

#### iii. UW Regents Meeting April 7th - 8<sup>th</sup>

The upcoming meeting at Stevens Point will include the regents talking to students regarding sustainability and divestment in particular.

Andrew will be attending and also bringing some students.

We can also attend virtually.

Andrew will continue to share the details with us.

#### iv. Updates

1. General Education

- a. New Gen. Ed. coordinator (Andrew)
  - i. Discussion at Faculty Senate coming up?

There will be a new quarter-time Gen Ed coordinator.

Once that person has been chosen, we should talk with them about including sustainability more strongly in the Gen Ed. Program.

#### **v. Discussion of Survey Questions**

- 1. Utilize break-out groups, brainstorm questions

We broke up into separate groups to discuss the survey questions and revise/polish them.

We reconvened at 11:45 to discuss the questions.

Most groups recorded their thoughts in the document.

One group talked about some of the accessibility issues surrounding this. (Not just bikes and electric vehicles)

Also a broad question about how UWL is doing on sustainable and whether or not UWL should be a leader on sustainability issues or just respond to the community.

Another group discussed the importance of defining terms regarding divestment.

They also raised the question of bike security.

Also talked about putting together a certificate on ENV sustainability.

Also some concerns regarding the length of the survey. (Possibly should break it into two)

The other group talked about word smithing and raising the issue of people knowing what divestment is.

There were also some concerns regarding the length of the survey.

There were also some concerns about biases in the questions.

Possibly we'll break it into two, and send them out at two separate times.

What if there was a bike registration fee where students register their bike here at UWL with campus police and then received a Ulock as part of their registration...with a green fund grant to initiate the ulock purchases?

### **3. Old Business**

### **4. Announcements**

This coming Tuesday at 7pm we'll have a speaker from SaltWise talking on campus about the ENV impacts of road salt.

Veronica will send out the flyer.



It would be nice if we could get some of the people on campus who decide about our salt uses to attend the meeting or hear the talk.

Possibly we could reach out to them.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> Viterbo is having a symposium on “What is in your drinking water?”

Dr. Daniel Sambu Dr. Tisha , Erin Brokovich will be there.

Colin will send more information.

<https://www.viterbo.edu/agnes-wh-tan-science-symposium>

Social Justice Week will be looking at Environmental Justice this year.

We should think about working with them.

The Moses conference (sustainable agriculture) is meeting downtown this week.

## **5. Adjournment**

12:01

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, March 25, 2022

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96225761538> (Meeting link)

### Attendance:

Andrew Ericson, Adam Driscoll, Ellie McMillan (Student Guest), Grace Lopez Johnson, Steve Fulton, Pearl B, Abby Bingenheimer (Student Guest), Keenan Brummett (Student Guest), Derek Norby, Brandon Anderson, Veronica Sannes, Jake Johnston, Katherine Kortenkamp, Kelly Voegele, Kelly Gorres, Jared Zwettler, Colin Belby, Margot Higgins

### 1. Approval of 2/25 Minutes

Motion/Second: Steve, Veronica 14-0-0

### 2. New Business

#### a. Jared Zwettler visit (Student Body President)

There have been conversations with Dr. Hetzel regarding a full-time sustainability coordinator position.

The initial proposal is a 50/50 split between Administration and Finance and the Green Fund.

The position would run 3 or so years with a possibility for renewal.

One idea is that the position would be housed in University Centers to ensure that it is student-centered.

The current funding would be temporary, and would have to be revisited every four years or so. (About \$30,000 from the Green Fund/student side)

There's a MOU being drafted between John Acardo and Dr. Hetzel on the titling process. Once that's clarified, the agreement will determine responsibilities and such between the students and administration regarding the position.

This agreement will make sure all of the money and responsibilities between the two groups are clearly outlined and understood.

Do we have a sense of what sustainability coordinators get paid on other campuses?

The position would end up being something along the lines of \$45,000 in salary and \$15,000 in associated benefits.

The position would not directly involve any specific teaching component.

Do we have a sense of what type of criteria we would be using or what a successful candidate would look like?

Kyle Burke would be doing the hiring.

The criteria would be set during the hiring process.

This is a comparable salary to what a starting IAS gets here at UWL.

Is there room for JCES to participate in outlining the position and the hiring?

Jared will look into getting JCES represented on the search committee as well as potentially involved in outlining the position.

Where would the associated money for position costs (travel, conferences, supplies, expenses, etc.) come from?

That's still getting worked out by Admin and Finance and Dr. Hetzel.

Do we have a sense of what the timeline is for this position?

Titling should be done in the next two weeks or so.

Funding should be secured by the end of the school year (coming soon).

The deadline for the grant would be April 6<sup>th</sup>.

We hope to have the position approved so we can do a search and hiring in the Summer or Fall.

We would likely have to wait till the fall if we want to incorporate sufficient student engagement.

Will the position be advertised as a 3-4 year position with the possibility of rehiring?

Likely. It would be a bit unfair otherwise.

The position wouldn't have their own budget, but would work primarily in a collaborative capacity.

Hopefully they would work closely with the Green Fund, particularly with longer-term projects.

Additionally, while they won't necessarily have a budget initially, they could possibly take over the administration of some of the Green Fund moving forward.

The person in this role could also write grants to bring in outside funding.

That should possibly be worked into the position description.

If anyone has any additional questions/feedback/ideas, they should feel free to contact Jared.

#### **b. 2022 Social Justice Week Keynote Speaker mini-grant (Andrew)**

Soc 328 (Environmental Justice) students have an assignment to take on a project promoting Environmental Justice.

They had the idea to bring Dr. Al Gedicks (an EJ scholar and activists) as the keynote speaker. Dr. Gedicks would talk about the Crandon and Back-50 mine projects.

This would help with diversifying the types of projects we do and bringing in an EJ element.

The price would cover the speaker fee and price of bringing Dr. Gedicks to campus.

This would be valuable to students due to the work Dr. Gedicks has done and his experience working in Wisconsin.

Could help motivate students toward activism.

The hope of the project is that Native American struggles against mining would fit well with the Social Justice Week's theme on "Spaces, Places, and People: The Urgency of Intersectional Environmentalism, Unified Communities, and Mutual Networks"

This would help reinforce the point that environmental justice is a local issue.

The current funds allocated are intended to cover whatever the costs may be. (Likely an over-estimate)

Any excess funds would be swept back into the Greenfund.

Would it be possible to add in an element of informal gathering with Dr. Gedicks' visit?

Like a brownbag with students?

The idea behind the dollar figure is just to make sure that Social Justice Week

Motion/Second: Margot, Colin 12-0-2 (Andrew and Adam)

### **3. Old Business**

#### **a. Survey update (initial results and response rate)**

Andrew had a meeting with all the shared governance groups, so he sent it out to faculty.

125 responses so far from faculty.

If there is interest, Andrew can share some of the more specifics.

Or we can wait until we hear everything.

It will be sent out to students soon.

#### **b. EV Infrastructure Update (Kelly Voegelé)**

The new parking ramp has not been approved yet.

They asked about knowledge of EV infrastructure on other campuses. Madison has some.

They have been collecting data from other campuses.

The only campuses they haven't heard back from are Green Bay, Parkside, and River Falls

The mini-committee found a survey from another campus that was asking similar questions.

UW Stout had a complete proposal on EV Infrastructure that they shared with us that also included a survey of campus interest.

We'll look into if any of the other Universities have actual usage data.

#### **4. Announcements**

Kate and Grace will be meeting soon to organize Earth Fest. Things are going well so far. They're currently waiting on Chartwells regarding the catering.

There might be a need for some additional funding that they would be looking toward the Green Fund to help with that.

e-Waste donation bin, documentaries, a clothing drop/swap, information on composing. They're still working on promoting it.

It's a big work in progress. =)

Grace is willing to answer any questions anyone has via e-mail.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Motion/Second: Adam, Steve 14-0-0

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, April 8, 2022

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96225761538> (Meeting link)

**Attendance:** Andrew Ericson; Alysa Remsburg; Brandon Anderson; Derek Norby; Cassie; Grace Johnson; Jake Johnston; Jared Zwettler; Kat Fitzgerald; Katherine Kortenkamp; Kelly Gorres; Kelly Voegele; Margot Higgins; Pearl Bearhardt; Veronica Sannes; Veronica Pettigrew; Colin Belby; Carter; Drea Higgins;

**Meeting called to order @ 11:03 a.m.**

### 6. Approval of 3/25 Minutes

Motion/Second: Jake, Kelly 16-0-0 (unanimous)

### 7. New Business

#### a. New Member Introduction (Cassie, new Green Fund Coordinator)

- Cassie answered questions about their priorities and interests, as they relate to the role as Green Fund Coordinator.

#### b. Green Fund Grants

Andrew presented on spring 2022 large grants, including the application process and process of review/approval and evaluation criteria. ~\$52K unallocated balance in the Green Fund.

#### i. Green Bike Grant

- Requesting \$13,200 (\$4,400/yr for three years). *Currently* the program rents ~90 bikes to students. \$15 rental fee for students + deposits that are returned w/ the return of the rented bike.
- Motion to approve/second. Kelly Voegele/Veronica Sannes. 14-0-0 (Unanimous. There was a count of hands.)
  - High priority: 11
  - Medium priority: 2
  - Low priority: 0

#### ii. Sustainable Program Manager Grant

- \$105K request (up to \$35K/yr over three years).
- Jared Zwettler noted that the annual \$35K includes a built-in buffer for anticipated salary/benefit increases over the three year period.

- An explanation was provided for how this grant could be funded given that there is a ~\$52K balance in the Green Fund. Essentially, the expense is extended over several years, allowing the Green Fund to cover the annual expenses of the grant each year.
- Kelly Gorres asked the question of whether there may be other large projects that need to be funded in the next several years. Andrew noted that there are two solar panel projects in the works, and that those projects will not be funded solely by the Green Fund.
- Jared Zwettler spoke to the start date for the position (in the fall). A job description and the titling process are being completed at this time and should be completed during the summer.
- Margot Higgins mentioned that there would be the ability to work w/ the environmental studies program on campus, and that aspect could be included in the job description.
- Alysa Remsburg mentioned that we could be setting ourselves up for not having a permanent position, given that the funding is only guaranteed for three years. Margot Higgins noted that there is a very good chance of this position continuing; students will likely see value in it, so long as it's successful.
  - Jared mentioned that the funding structure could change after three years. The Provost's Office could find opportunities for funding.
- Andrew stated that we have options: choose to approve this grant and the Green Bike grant today; or we can hold off a week to see if the job description comes through related to the Sustainability Coordinator position. The latter would leave SUFAC with less time to review the grant.
- Motion to approve/second. Colin Belby/Jake Johnston. 13-0-0 (Unanimous. There was a count of hands.)
  - High priority: 13
  - Medium priority: 0
  - Low priority: 0

### **~~iii. Food Pantry Mini-Grant~~**

- Not addressed due to representatives not in attendance.

### **iv. UW Board of Regents Update**

- Andrew attended and gave an update to JCES. Sustainability was discussed. Universities submitted plans to reduce energy use. There was a discussion re: divestment. There seemed to be an appetite for divestment at the UW System level. Future pressure on foundations to divest, e.g.

**c. April 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting?**

**8. Old Business**

- a. Survey update (Undergraduate Response)
- Not addressed during the meeting.

**9. Announcements**

**Mentioned by Colin Belby:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 – 1:00: Earth Fest cleanup.

**Veronica Pettigrew gave an update on clothing drive:** April 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 – 2:00, outside Student Union

**Grace Johnson mentioned Earth Fest activities:** 2:00 – 6:00; Dinner 5:30. Giving out containers to first 200(?) students.

**Drift Bikes promotional information/graphics were shared with the group.** Soft launch planned for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn/second: Colin/Jake



## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, April 15, 2022

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96225761538> (Meeting link)

**Attendance:** Andrew Ericson; Jake Johnston; James Longhurst; Steve Fulton; Lisa Pitot; Kelly Voegele; Adam Driscoll; Pearl Bearhardt; Margot Higgins; Katherine Kortenkamp; Derek Norby; Drea Higgins; Kelly Gorres; Veronica Pettigrew; Colin Belby;

### 1. Approval of 4/8 Minutes

We made one small change to correct to vote on the first Green Fund Grant.

Move/Second (): Unanimous Approval

### 2. New Business

#### a. Survey results discussion

We did have pretty decent response rate.

The data regarding personal interest/investment in issues of environmental sustainability was rather promising.

A lot of our students and faculty care about environmental sustainability issues.

Looking at our transport methods, the biking numbers seem incredibly low.

A good bit of our respondents do not even have a bike.

We also might have seen some seasonal impacts where the winter impacted answers.

This is still 5 times higher than most of America. (Around 2%)

A lot of people might lack direct access to campus via bike.

Additionally, we do have great walking numbers.

Our biking numbers should not be viewed in isolation of those.

Thinking about biking numbers there's a question of how many bike racks exist

These numbers do exist.

If we look just at percentages of students, those numbers will be impacted by the proportion of students who live on campus and are just too close to bother biking.

Weather is definitely a factor here.

UC Berkeley had a parking pass option that was variable (would only count for X number of days), and would/could de-incentivize driving.

For future surveys we could ask how many times you park your car per semester.

Possibly a winter parking pass that is only good for X date to Y date.

There might be some other reasons behind the push for more parking lots.  
ACS data says bike-to-work rate is 1.5% for comparable-sized cities.

There's a direct relationship between the amount of parking and the proportion of biking.  
So should we be thinking about what drives people to bike to campus more?  
"Don't subsidize parking over other options."

Our carpooling numbers are low, but there.

Follow up surveys should make sure to ask about respondent's living situation.  
(On-campus, near campus, or far away)  
That would really influence how we interpret the data.

There's a big difference between staff and faculty regarding transportation.  
There could be an income dynamic, where faculty can afford to live closer to campus.  
The time component might also be a big part of that.  
Faculty tend to have more flexible schedules.

Looking at influences on transportation decisions  
Distance to travel and convenience were the two biggest factors.  
Costs didn't seem to be a big concern, but that could be due to people not thinking about costs or really being aware of them.  
We could do some manner of education campaign on the "costs of cars."  
Informing people about how much not having a car can save them.

Concerning what would increase the likelihood of people biking to campus, increased bike lanes seemed to rank the highest.

The city of La Crosse has a bike-ped advisory committee.  
We could possibly present some of this information to them.

We will have La Crosse County possibly making some new connections under 90 and to West Salem.

This is the promised WISDOT plan that MAY address improvements on 16, 35, 53:  
<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/couleeregion/default.aspx>

This is the TAP application for Grand Crossing Trail, ranked 1st locally in competition but now will go on to state competition [https://www.lacrossecounty.org/docs/default-source/metropolitan-planning-organization/city-of-la-crosse-grand-crossing-trail-2022.pdf?sfvrsn=6469d54f\\_0](https://www.lacrossecounty.org/docs/default-source/metropolitan-planning-organization/city-of-la-crosse-grand-crossing-trail-2022.pdf?sfvrsn=6469d54f_0)

this was announced last fall to much fanfare; a big decision to abandon the marsh road.  
<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/couleeregion/default.aspx>

Students are concerned about bike theft. (More so than faculty)

Students are also likely more likely to leave their bikes on campus overnight.

We have some impressive numbers of faculty who intend to purchase an electric vehicle.

Around 30% expect to own an electric/plug-in-hybrid vehicle in the next 5 years.

If we want to use this data as a stronger selling point, we could combine some of the “interest” variables regarding electric vehicles to create a larger number.

Something like 40% should have such a vehicle in 5 years.

Possibly people are seeing the overall costs of owning such a vehicle dropping.

Also, we’re seeing an increase in the amount of such vehicles being manufactured.

We have 50% of people saying they would be more likely to purchase an electric/plug-in-hybrid vehicle if there were charging stations.

And the number saying otherwise are likely part of those who are already walking to campus.

And the majority (75%) of those who intend to own an electric car said yes.

Looking at the academic offerings question most students seemed somewhat happy with their options.

We don’t know with those who are answering these questions how much they know about the ENV options.

Lots of good information in this survey. We should try to get this word out on campus.

### **3. Old Business**

#### **a. Sustainable Program Manager position update**

Dr. Hetzel should be joining us next week to talk about the new position.

We still don’t have a full job description. It should be sent today.

Andrew will send it to all of us once he gets it.

### **4. Announcements**

The Divestment subgroup is presenting to the Investment Committee this afternoon.

They’ll have an update for us next meeting.

### **5. Adjournment**

12:01!

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, April 22, 2022

Faculty Senate Chambers (Graff Main 325)

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96225761538> (Meeting link)

**Attendance:** Andrew Ericson; Adam Driscoll; Kelly Voegele; Steve Fulton; Jake Johnston; Bob Hetzel; Brandon Anderson; Carter Drost; Grace Lopez Johnson; Derek Norby

**Online:** Pearl Bearhardt; Lisa Pitot; Kelly Gorres; Cassie Ziegler; Veronica Pettigrew

### 1. Approval of 4/15 Minutes

Motion (Jake Johnston), Second (Brandon Anderson): 14/0/0

### 2. New Business

#### a. Discussion with Dr. Bob Hetzel

Dr. Hetzel has been here since 2007, and coming from the University of Northern Colorado, one of his first priorities was to work on developing the Green Fund legislation.

Only a few University System schools had such a feature at the time.

Just met with K.C. and Jared and it's great to end the year with support for the Sustainability Coordinator position.

We have a number of Leeds Gold and Silver certified buildings.

The new parking ramp (CFA) will have solar panels on top.

We're working on the electric vehicle infrastructure, knowing the demand is coming.

We need the number of parking spaces due to the number of students we have who come from far away and whose families want them to be bringing a car.

KwikTrip themselves is looking at how they shift toward electric.

Do we have a clear idea of when we'll start building the electric car infrastructure?

We don't have data currently to indicate where the "trigger point" is.

At some point we'll be basing the discussion and decision on what the data shows.

Would it be logical to put in a charging station or two right now and just see if it gets used?

In 2017 when we finished the electrical grid overhaul, we put in the wiring for charging stations in the stadium parking lot.

Right now, we don't seem to have the demand. (And the stations are rather expensive!)  
La Crosse county doesn't seem to have many charging stations. (Western doesn't even have one.)\*

Three years ago the costs were \$3-4,000 (-ish).

We're meeting with the engineering firm building the new parking ramp in a few weeks, so they'll have some ideas/suggestions/data on how many charging stations we'll need in 5/10 years.

That is an amount that could make for a great Green Fund grant!!!

As the amount of auto manufacturers offering EV's goes up, we should expect more students and faculty to be driving such vehicles (and needing charging stations).

Additionally, some of the students who are bringing vehicles to campus could not currently be bringing EV ones because of the lack of charging stations.

\*- Our EV committee found that Western has two charging stations.

They're going to work on getting usage data and sharing it with us and Dr. Hetzel.

We're implementing a new security camera system on campus. How many of those cameras will capture bike racks?

Initially it will be focused on the core buildings and entrances.

Right now, none of the cameras are dedicated to bike racks.

Possibly, when we start adding cameras, they should be dedicated toward the bike racks near the residence halls, where students report the most bike theft.

Are there any options in the works for flexible parking passes?

There have been some discussions about this regarding hybrid work schedules.

We did not adopt a reduced parking permit at that time.

It's hard to figure out.

We pay the city \$185,000 a year for the use of the busses.

We do not see a return on that money.

Madison has recently "beautified" their bus stations to incentivize their use.

The nighttime busses seem to get used. =)

We had to pay the city to put the bus stops on East street.

Some manner of flexible parking pass would possibly incentivize walking/biking/busses.

Fund 109 dollars- The department of administration has put a pause on this program.

It's a state appropriation fund, but it was merged with Fund 102.

What it did was the state would help fund sustainability/efficiency/improvement projects.

(And then get paid back by the savings realized by the project)

We're still trying to figure out how to utilize the program moving forward.

### **b. Composting Grant**

Ben wasn't here to discuss the grant.

How much money does the campus save by reducing the amount of waste we are directing toward our solid waste stream?

Possibly if we are paying something per weight, we could figure out how much weight we're reducing our other stream by and reverse engineer the savings.

It depends on how our current contract.

Motion to approve (Steve), Second (Carter): 14/0/0

## **3. Old Business**

### **a. Divestment committee update**

The Divestment Committee met with the committee

The meeting went a little odd due to a technical mishap.

The group gave a quick version of their presentation.

The committee seemed receptive.

Andrew did a great job conveying the importance of divestment and sustainability and how big of a priority that is with our students.

The presentation should be posted on our website.

### **b. Annual Report**

Andrew and Adam will work on putting this year's together.

At our next meeting we should make sure to talk about future goals for next year.

Including inviting Dr. Hetzel to more meetings.

## **4. Announcements**

Earthfest went well. (Thankfully we had great weather)

All of the food sold out.

A lot of non-student orgs. were there and there seemed to be a lot of attention paid to them.

The food was really good! (Quality stuffed mushrooms!)

There will be a search committee formed for the new sustainability position once we have the job approved.

The job description seemed pretty solid.

## **5. Adjournment- 11:51**

Motion (Adam Driscoll), Second (Steve Fulton): 14/0/0

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, May 6, 2022

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96225761538> (Meeting link)

**Attendance:** Andrew Ericson; Adam Driscoll; Kelly Voegele; Steve Fulton; Jake Johnston; Derek Norby; Pearl Bearhardt; Lisa Pitot; Brandon Anderson; Ben Zess; Kelly Gorres; Carter Drost; Margot Higgins, Grace Lopez Johnson

### 1. Approval of 4/22 Minutes

Motion (Jake Johnson), Second (Carter Drost): 12-0-0

### 2. New Business

#### a. Recycling Sticker Mini-Grant

Ben Zess walked us through the basics of the grant (see attached).

While La Crosse doesn't currently take plastics 1-7, those were the stickers that were approved.

The QR code will take people to the UWL recycling website.

If the stickers get damaged or replaced, the custodians should not be held responsible.

Students for Sustainability will be the ones responsible for replacing them.

It's around 2000 stickers.

Move ( ), Second ( ): 14-0-0

#### b. Year Reflections and Looking Forward

Subcommittees were a good tool.

A place to catalyze ideas

Survey was helpful as we got some information.

Getting the sustainability director position was a huge achievement.

Getting all of the administrators to join meetings seemed to be a successful strategy.

Dr. Hetzel was a very nice addition.



Possibly we could/should get him to attend in the Fall.

It would be nice to have meetings in-person next year.

It would be great if we could keep the Zoom option for those who can't attend in person.

Lisa Pitot will be the convener next year. (Friday at 11am!)

Jake and Carter will be serving on Student Senate and are possible options.

The Sustainability Director and Green Fund coordinator will be automatically added.

It would be good to get rolling as quickly as possible.

Having Co-chairs seemed to work well the last two years.

Particularly a student/administrator or faculty mix.

Adam will still be around in the Fall, even if he's unable to be on the committee.

### **3. Old Business**

#### **a. Annual Report Update**

Andrew and Adam will work on this.

### **4. Announcements**

Andrew had a very touching send off.

### **5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:34!