

## Western Washington University

President's Sustainability Advisory Council  
May 2, 2025 ~ 8:30-10 am, OM 340 / Teams

### Meeting Notes - Approved

#### Participants:

Jack Herring, Leonard Jones, Grace Wang, Nicole Brown, Stephanie Ashton, Kate Cabe, Halle Bauer, Teena Gabrielson, Traci Brewer-Rogstad, Jeff Aslan, Shelby Zimmerman, Jim Sterk, Matthew Miller, Paul Wilson-Scott, Loral Ballew, Sam Schmidt, Gage Loots, Nancy Phillips (notetaker)

#### 1. Welcome by:

- Jack Herring, Co-Chair, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

#### 2. Review prior meeting minutes - [4-17-2025 PSC Draft Meeting Notes.docx](#)

Motion to approve by Grace Wang, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leonard Jones. Approved.

#### 3. Review additional plan section revisions: [2025 2030 SAP Focus](#)

- **Paid Business Travel – Nicole Brown**

Move under Leadership – translate over. Focus on personal and institutional changes around actual travel policies. Encourage regional conferences, department evaluation plans in relationship to WWU strategic plan, giving attention to alternative forms of public intellectualism. That could be the paid business travel section. Items #2, 3 and 4 could apply to Leadership (University-led Mitigation, University Direct Ecological Investment, and Third Party Offsetting). Refer to it in this section but move to Leadership.

Also, forests in trust. Value of not cutting the forests but preserve through carbon offsets. Innovative approach. Explore other possibilities, such as partnering with the state to preserve an old growth forest.

Offsets – across industry challenges was discussed, as well as carbon reductions. Foundation investments were briefly discussed.

Reduction of travel was discussed. Different modes of travel were discussed, such as train. Also, make conferences available with remote options. Regional conferences are encouraged in alternate years, with in-person conferences for faculty as required for tenure and promotion purposes.

Suggestion – some information from this section be merged with the leadership section, to include Athletics and other university activities, including field trips.

Fleet vehicles are tracked for emissions and greenhouse gases. Air travel would theoretically also be tracked.

Nicole will review the Leadership section to make additions.

- **Food and Dining Services**

Sam Schmidt, sustainability intern for Chartwells, provided input on document updates. Recommend changing terminology to “Food and Dining Services” instead of “Dining Services” in the final SAP. KPIs are mostly focused on dining services. Mostly created in conversation with the executive chef and Paul, using data they can access. Don’t yet have baselines for 2025 targets. Sam will reach out to peer institutions for additional information.

Discussed making SNAP available for use in the campus markets and the importance of the food pantry. Farming discussed. Potentially tie funding to the plan. Tracking greenhouse gases and emissions capability discussed. Food study courses are in the curriculum, could be part of literacy aspect. Suggest an inventory of the classes offered at WWU and refer to them in the document. Including a method of greenhouse gasses is important. Get more detailed about support for courses. Possibly include in the curriculum section.

- **Green Buildings and Embodied Carbon**

Traci Brewer-Rogstad discussed LEED Gold vs LEED Silver was discussed. Focus on LEED and better. #1 was reviewed and discussed. Establish a tiered performance matrix plus program for projects and project demands. Baseline RCW standard where feasible but look for other options beyond new construction. Use a matrix approach for baseline improvements for better operational savings and improved carbon footprint.

Substantive change away from LEED Gold. **Add this item to the next agenda for further discussion.**

#### **4. Update on capital budget and district heating**

Waiting on the governor’s review and signature. The district heating conversion project was briefly reviewed. Determining the best way to move the project forward.

Meeting ended at 10 am.

Tabled for next meeting:

- Water Conservation and Stormwater
- Wellness
- Curriculum and Research
- Student Life
- Engagement and Leadership
- Community Commuting

**Note:** Climate Resilience, Equity & Social Justice, and Engagement and Leadership should be infused throughout the other sections.

5. How should we proceed with Community Engagement?

6. Other topics from the Council

Upcoming work sessions:

- May 22, 3:30-5 pm, OM 340 / Teams
- June 11, 8:30-10 am, OM 340 / Teams