



Request for 2020-21 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: UWT Sustainability Committee

Create Date: 01/11/2021

Due Date: 02/05/2021

Submitter Name: Ryan Moriarty

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Ellen Moore

Requested Amount: **\$121,961**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The proposed plan for the Husky Sustainability Fund (HSF) provides students with the opportunity to engage their community on campus and beyond by supporting initiatives that contribute to a culture of sustainability. We define sustainability "in an inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods and a better world for all generations" (AASHE 2020)." Increased support for collaboration between students, faculty, and staff through HSF will allow students to play a critical role in the campus community and have their voices and ideas valued. Driving sustainable programming into academics and campus operations, this fund serves to promote innovative project design and increased awareness of the ability to make real change on both individual and campus-wide scales. The proposal includes the creation of new part-time student sustainability job positions, and the opportunity for students to gain experience serving on a new project advisory committee; both offer valuable resume- building material. Sustainability is a growing career field, and this fund will provide opportunities for student leaders interested in sustainability to gain experience in leadership, project management, and research skills. For those not directly participating in the research, design, or implementation of the projects under the Husky Sustainability Fund, the work that it will produce secures the ability for future generations of students to have access to the same, if not better, resources and opportunities. It will also provide students with amenities designed to decrease waste and incentivize a sustainable community.

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

The Husky Sustainability Fund aligns with multiple aspects of UW Tacoma's strategic plan. It is relevant to our Values of Diversity and Innovation and our Strategic Priorities related to Students, Scholarship, Equity, and Growth.

Values:

Innovation and Diversity– The Fund will make it possible for innovative student projects related to questions of sustainability as well as environmental and social justice to come to fruition on our campus. It will do so by providing financial support as well as professional mentoring and guidance as students implement ideas developed in courses, in student groups, and in community collaborations on and off the UWT campus. All of these projects will be "lived" versions of our value of Innovation and many will be related to our value of Diversity.

Strategic Priorities:

Students– The Fund will support student-led projects related to sustainability and social equity on our campus and in our community. In this way, it will enable students to engage in a high-impact practice of community-engaged research and effect change. Success indicators are C, D, and F.

Scholarship– The Fund will support the implementation of faculty-student, staff-student, and student-student sustainability projects on our campus. These projects will be the result of scholarship done in UWT classrooms and beyond and may provide opportunities for ongoing research related to sustainability in higher education as those projects continue through time. Success indicators are A, B, D, and F.

Equity– The Fund will consider questions of sustainability broadly to include questions of social and environmental justice. Thus, it will fund student-led initiatives related to issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity on the UWT campus and the surrounding community. Success indicators are C and F.

Growth– The Fund will provide opportunities for students to influence sustainability initiatives on campus and be one spoke in the wheel of UWT achieving strategic and sustainable growth. Fund-created projects may actually develop positive feedbacks that sustain the campus and student access to higher education in the future. Success indicators are A and F, with likely indirect influence on E.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The goals for the inaugural year of the Husky Sustainability Fund (HSF) are:

- (1) Search for and hire a half-time Student Sustainability Coordinator staff position to promote student participation and leadership in activities that address environmental sustainability and social justice for UWT and our community.
- (2) Search for and hire three student Sustainability Interns who will work with the Coordinator on designing and advertising applications for HSF proposals, serve on the HSF Committee, participate in campus sustainability initiatives, and act as peer mentors for students applying.
- (3) Coordinator and Interns work with ASUWT to finalize bylaws for the HSF Committee and processes for fund disbursement.
- (4) Train Interns on environmental and social sustainability, effective communication strategies, and organizational skills.
- (5) Advertise for HSF applications, hold 'help sessions' for students to aid them in refining and improving proposals and garnering input from campus and community stakeholders, and accept applications in autumn quarter.
- (6) Collaborate with other campus units interested in applying to HSF to ensure substantial student involvement and benefit.
- (7) Select and fund proposals in early winter quarter and aid students in completing proposed projects by spring quarter.
- (8) In collaboration with the UWT Sustainability Committee, organize sustainability initiatives and activities for UWT students on campus and in the community.
- (9) Communicate to UWT students regarding sustainability issues to raise awareness and initiate action.
- (10) Submit annual report on HSF activities and accomplishments and apply for year two funding.

This is a new proposal to SAFC, and thus we do not have SAF-funded outcomes from prior years to report on. However, we do have some history behind sustainability efforts that may help show student support for the program. The concept of a sustainability fund was conceived by UWT students Morgan Brubach and Jade Redfield in 2015. The UWT Sustainability Committee worked with the students to craft a ballot initiative to create a separate student fee to fund what is proposed here. UWT students voted to approve the proposal in 2016 and again in 2017, with more than 73% voting in favor of the initiative in 2017. Unfortunately, both years less than 10% of students voted in ASUWT elections, meaning that the fee could not be approved. The Sustainability Committee, including student members, a representative from the Center for Equity and Inclusion, and faculty and staff, after consultation with SAFC Chair Freeman and ASUWT Director of Finance Yang, decided to apply for SAF funds in order to not further burden students and still bring about this student-supported program in 2020. Due to the uncertainty of the global pandemic the HSF was not funded out of budgetary caution, however, members of SAFC expressed support for funding in 2021.

For the current proposal and in our previous efforts, the UWT Sustainability Committee has been supported by student organizations, including ASUWT, Project Earth, Giving Garden, and CIVITAS. We have garnered support from the Director of Facilities Services, Student Involvement, UWT faculty, and staff.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

The Husky Sustainability Fund is a new program, and therefore does not have directly-connected historical data to convey here. However, the HSF is being proposed by the UWT Sustainability Committee, which has been organizing sustainability outreach and education programming and carrying out sustainability projects on campus for over 10 years. In one way or another all students at UW Tacoma have access to services and programming supported by the UWT Sustainability Committee. The Committee was envisioned and created by students, staff, and faculty who in 2010 convinced then Chancellor Patricia Spakes to create the committee. It is comprised of six student members, 3 faculty, and 6 staff representing facilities, transportation, campus planning, the Center for Equity and Inclusion, and more.

Some past and current projects organized by the Committee to benefit students include (1) a feasibility study for the possible creation of a Husky Shuttle system to provide public transit to students living in communities with non-viable transit options, (2) the UW Tacoma Giving Garden which this year provided over 400 lbs of fresh produce for the UWT Pantry, (3) a Waste Management Intern to study student waste sorting behaviors and how to improve, (4) the Husky Swap Meet that resulted in student access to free re-used household appliances, furniture, and clothing, and (5) campaigns to decrease single-use coffee cups and water bottles on campus.

Students have benefitted from these projects through resume-building experiences provided by internships and undergraduate research, through free access to nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables for food-insecure students, through cost-saving measures that help decrease the need for higher tuition, and through addressing long-term sustainability issues that affect students now and for the future.

The Committee has also helped create course-based projects and service-learning opportunities in multiple classes, giving students the opportunity to design and implement student-conceived sustainability initiatives as part of their curriculum. This is valuable professional experience for a job market where sustainability is front and center. Moreover, the Committee has been able to offer students the opportunity to attend national and regional sustainability conferences, and even to present to international audiences.

By creating the Husky Sustainability Fund, students will be gaining the support of staff and peer mentors in conceiving of, proposing, and implementing their own ideas to benefit students, the campus, and the community. The HSF will be able to deepen and broaden the experiences that UWT's students already have with sustainability.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

The HSF Committee will be responsible for collecting feedback on programs and services that are funded by the Husky Sustainability Fund. Each project that is funded will work closely with the Student Sustainability Coordinator (a half-time professional staff position) and the Sustainability Interns (three half-time student positions) to complete their idea and deliver their results upon completion of the project. The types of data will vary from project to project and will be summarized in an annual report composed by the Coordinator. Once a year the Sustainability Coordinator and the Sustainability Interns will present to ASUWT on that year's funded projects, budget allocations, accomplishments and projections for the next year.

Projects that apply for ongoing funding for continued services to students will be required to deliver an annual report to the HSF Committee demonstrating their impact on campus and students.

Tools that will be used to track student benefit will include:

- Sign-in sheets at HSF-sponsored events to track the number of students in attendance
- Student surveys to gauge the importance and value of HSF initiatives on campus
- Energy and resource savings data provided by UW Tacoma Facilities on green projects sponsored by HSF
- Data collected by the HSF Committee on the number of project proposals received and what type of projects are being proposed
- Progress reports detailing sustainability indicators connected to funded projects, e.g. green certifications such as Green Office Certification, Green Dawgs Certification, and Green Lab Certification, transit use, greenhouse gas emissions, waste reduction efficacy, and more.

Since this is our first year receiving funding from the SAFC we do not have examples of how we have used these feedback mechanisms to improve our efforts yet.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The projects that would be funded by the Husky Sustainability Fund could involve students in three key ways: projects may be led by and hire students, they may directly benefit students, and they may be conceived of by students. Many of the project ideas might include all three of these benefits.

First, hiring UW Tacoma students as Sustainability Interns or compensating them as they work on a project would enable them to actively engage with sustainability projects. This provides not only income, allowing more students to participate, but also important experiences for our students working on innovative sustainability projects. This work also allows students to make new connections on our campus and with our community partners.

Second, this funding could directly support projects benefiting students, including (as an example) a project idea involving solar panels. Students can actually install solar panels and then sell the energy to the campus, saving the campus money and decreasing greenhouse gases. Not only could the project pay for itself in time, but future savings could directly benefit students as income for student government. Other possible ideas for funding include campus screenings and discussions around movies and documentaries relating to sustainability, which invites our students to be part of a broader conversation and engaged with timely environmental and sustainable issues. Another important example of an initiative that would support students is the effort to create a recycled or reused cap and gown program. This is an issue that involves sustainability in many ways, including saving students money and keeping waste out of the landfill.

Finally, many of these ideas for projects and initiatives have originated with our students, illustrating the third way that this funding would involve students – as creators of innovative sustainable projects on our campus and in our community. Many of these projects can also be easily and productively tied to existing courses on our campus, and thus give students a means of taking ideas developed in class and implementing them as real-world applications of what they have learned.

In all, funding our students in their work on various student-conceived projects and initiatives would help support them in myriad ways and would help to make their sustainability projects – and thus those on this campus – successful.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Classified Staff ²	0.5 FTE Student Sustainability Coordinator (benefits included) salary grade 6, with a range starting at \$1946-3969/month, at 0.5 FTE. As a regular (non-temporary) position at 0.5 FTE, the position is eligible for full medical/dental benefits and prorated time off accruals. The benefits rate charged to the position is currently 32.1% E001	
	Classified Staff Wages:	\$35,000
	Fringe @ 30.3%:	\$10,605
Student Staff ³	\$13.50 X 19.5 hr/wk X 4 wk/month X 9 month X 3 interns X 20.9% benefits E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$28,431
	Fringe @ 22.2%:	\$6,312
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$80,348

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Workday fee for 3 students and staff member all at 0.5 FTE S001	\$258
Equipment	Laptop for staff position S002	\$1,355
Aid, Grants & Subsidies Given	Husky Sustainability Fund money for disbursement for proposed projects through the Husky Sustainability Fund Committee S003	\$40,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$41,613

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$80,348
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$41,613
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$121,961

Supplemental Documents