

## BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Create Date: Due Date: Submitter Name: UW Email Address: Phone Number: Department Head Approval: Department Head: Requested Amount: 

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

The Husky Sustainability Fund (HSF) will provide 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.

This proposal is bringing, for the first time, a part-time Student Sustainability Coordinator to campus, and three new student positions: Husky Sustainability Fund Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, and a Project Development Specialist. 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 & social justice to come to fruition on our campus. It will do so by providing financial support as well as professional mentoring/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 & 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, & 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

Over the summer of 2021, after SAFC had approved the Husky Sustainability Fund proposal, the first order of business was to determine which department the programming and staff members would report out of. The original HSF proposers approached the Center for Student Involvement about taking on HSF, and it was a logical match. The Center for Student Involvement has lots of experience supporting student-led programming, as

well as experience with funds for student allocations (Campus Event Fund, Conference and Training Fund). The CSI is excited to have the Husky Sustainability Fund program joining forces, and it will help create collaborations and support for future initiatives.

Next, the top priorities for this year were to lay the groundwork for introducing the Husky Sustainability Fund to campus. As this is a brand new initiative, we have had to create all of the job descriptions and plans for HSF from scratch. At the time of putting together this proposal, the search committee for the Student Sustainability Coordinator has completed the first round of interviews and has identified two top candidates that will be invited for a second-round interview in early March. The committee was very impressed with the quality of candidates that applied, and are confident that a great match will be selected. And recently, the three job descriptions for student roles ("Sustainability Interns") were posted to Handshake. The positions are: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist, Outreach Coordinator, and Project Development Specialist. These students will be onboarded at the end of Winter Quarter/early Spring Quarter, and will collaborate on the official rollout of the fund.

One of their first tasks will be to finalize their bylaws and the processes for fund disbursement. While we can use the CEF and CTF guidelines as a model, the students and staff member that will ultimately oversee the fund should have a voice in these decisions. Spring Quarter will be focused on this, as well as connecting with campus groups/student organizations for collaborations, raising awareness across campus regarding sustainability, and potentially funding their first projects.

### 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 – yet! However, the HSF was originally 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. The future Student Sustainability Coordinator will sit on the UWT Sustainability Committee, and there will be many opportunities for crossover work and collaboration.

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 a 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. Through 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 and the Sustainability Interns 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.

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 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 will 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 other student initiatives.

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 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 a 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
Professional Staff <sup>1</sup>	<b>0.5 FTE Student Sustainability Coordinator</b> <span style="float: right;">E001</span>	
	Professional Staff Wages:	<b>\$35,000</b>
	Fringe <sup>4</sup> @ 29.4%:	<b>\$10,290</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>3 student coordinators @ 19.5 hrs/week. Calculating 45 total weeks of work + 20 hours each of training.</b> <span style="float: right;">E002</span>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$39,014</b>
	Fringe @ 20.4%:	<b>\$7,959</b>
<b>PERSONNEL TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$92,263</b>

## Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	Marketing	S001 <b>\$1,000</b>
Other Services	Workday fee	S002 <b>\$258</b>
	UW telephone services	S003 <b>\$200</b>
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Event supplies and materials	S004 <b>\$5,000</b>
	Promotional items	S005 <b>\$1,000</b>
	Staff name tags and business cards	S006 <b>\$250</b>
Food	Staff summer trainings	S007 <b>\$250</b>
Aid, Grants & Subsidies Given	Husky Sustainability Fund	S008 <b>\$50,000</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$57,958</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	<b>\$92,263</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	<b>\$57,958</b>
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$150,221</b>

## Supplemental Documents