

Title: Resolution in Support of Establishing a UW Sustainability Initiative and Campus Plan by 2020

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WHEREAS society and its institutions are currently faced with tackling the world's most complex challenges, with the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stating "climate change impacts and responses are closely linked to sustainable development which balances social well-being, economic prosperity and environmental protection";¹ and

WHEREAS the UW has a responsibility to its stakeholders and community to prepare and educate students to address the complex grand challenges of our time such as social and economic inequality, climate change and living within our planetary boundaries; and

WHEREAS the UW Strategic Plan directs the UW "to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century: to become even more competitive, collaborative, technology-reliant, nimble and diversified; and to provide solutions to society's most pressing problems";² and

WHEREAS the institutional decisions UW makes today have lasting impacts on the future of our community, region and the world; and

WHEREAS the UW actively manages institutional change through the two years to two decades (2y2d) Sustainable Academic Business Plan (SABP) which advances both short term and long range goals and through strategic Key Initiatives; and

WHEREAS achieving institutional sustainability will require both a strategic Key Initiative and a Comprehensive Plan which coordinates the efforts and resources of our students, faculty, and staff, by making progress toward measurable goals and metrics; and

WHEREAS a strategic Key Initiative for Sustainability would marshal the university's resources around a vision for the future of our community, that aligns with the UW's values, mission and strategic plan; and

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2018), *Global Warming of 1.5 °C: Summary for Policymakers*, p. 20 (D.2.1), https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

² University of Washington (2018), *Strategic Planning*, p. 2, https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/uw-s3-cdn/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2012/10/05212738/UW_Strategic_Plan_2018-final.pdf

WHEREAS a strategic Key Initiative for Sustainability would support and advance University Accreditation Core Themes and Objectives of: Research and Scholarship, Teaching and Learning, Service and Engagement; and

WHEREAS a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan would support and advance the 2y2d SABP short term goals to: Decrease Costs, Increase Revenue, Invest in People, Invest in Infrastructure and Increase Access, while making progress toward the long term goals to: Sustain, Compete and Transform; and

WHEREAS a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan would build on, support and align with existing UW policies such as the UW Strategic Framework, the UW Sustainable Academic Business Plan, the Campus Master Plan, the Climate Action Plan, the Race & Equity Initiative and the Population Health Initiative; and

WHEREAS the UW has recently “joined leading universities around the world in signing the newly-launched Declaration on University Global Engagement. This effort further aligns the work of the world’s top universities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals”;³ and

WHEREAS a strategic Key Initiative for Sustainability and a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan is an opportunity for the UW to further align its values, mission and strategic planning with global sustainability standards like the Global Reporting Initiative⁴ and the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals.⁵

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT we call for the University of Washington to make Sustainability a strategic Key Initiative in order to address the complex global challenges facing our students, campus and community in the 21st Century; and

THAT we advocate for and fully endorse the creation of a strategic Key Initiative for Sustainability to be announced on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Spring 2020; and

THAT the Sustainability Initiative will direct the UW Environmental Stewardship Committee to work with all campus stakeholders and partners on the creation of a

³UW Office of Global Affairs (2018), *Achieving the U.N. goals through education, research and collaboration*,

<https://www.washington.edu/globalaffairs/2018/09/24/declaration-university-global-engagement/>

⁴Global Reporting Initiative (Accessed October 2018), *About GRI*,

<https://www.globalreporting.org/Information/about-gri/Pages/default.aspx>

⁵United Nations (Accessed October 2018), *Sustainable Development Goals*,

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Comprehensive Sustainability Plan with implementation beginning in Summer 2020; and

THAT the Sustainability Plan shall start at the beginning of the academic year 2020 to initiate a review cycle every eighth year, with revisions of the metrics and goals to be completed every tenth year (in 2030 and 2040) to achieve UW's carbon neutrality goal by 2050; and

THAT we resolve to advocate for the development of this plan and work with the UW Administration and all campus stakeholders and partners on development of the scope, goals and metrics for this plan over the next two years; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce, Provost Mark Richards, Associate Vice President and Chief of Staff UW Finance & Administration Barbara Wingerson, Director of Sustainability Claudia Frere Anderson, UW Faculty Senate and ASUW Senate.

Presented to GPSS for approval on November 7, 2018

Approved on November 28, 2018