



January 2, 2013

Sustainability in the Curriculum Committee

Christine Ingebritsen, Professor, Department of Scandinavian Studies, *Co-Chair*

Clare Ryan, Professor, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, *Co-Chair*

Bruce Balick, Professor, Department of Astronomy

Austin Blevins, Program on the Environment Capstone Project

Christopher Campbell, Director, Community, Environment and Planning Program and

Special Assistant to the Provost, Office of Undergraduate Affairs

Elise Glassman, Project Manager, F2 Administration/Strategy Management

Lisa Graumlich, Dean, College of the Environment

Judy Howard, Professor, Divisional Dean of Social Sciences, College Of Arts and Sciences

Ruth Johnston, Associate Vice President, Finance and Facilities, Special Assistant to the Provost

Kevin Laverty, Professor, School of Business, UW Bothell

Joe Mahoney, William M. and Marilyn M. Conner Professor, Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering

Kathryn Merlino, Assistant Professor, College of Built Environments

Marilyn Ostergren, Analyst and Graduate Student

Caileigh Shoot, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Intern

Evan Smith, ASUW President

Pam Tufts, Assistant Director, Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Foster School of
Business

Lia Wetzstein, Instructor, IAS Program, Environmental Science, UW Tacoma

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Sustainability in the Curriculum Committee, to be led by Christine Ingebritsen and Clare Ryan, and sponsored by Lisa Graumlich and Judy Howard. I ask that you report back to me regarding providing a more formalized and visible sustainability curriculum for undergraduate students at the UW. This work relates to the UW Climate Action Plan and falls within the purview of the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC).

I ask that you consider and address the following:

- How should the UW define sustainability, as it relates to the curriculum and learning outcomes?
- What courses do we currently offer that include key sustainability concepts or tools? In which courses do students engage in real-world applications?
- What criteria should be applied to identify a course as focused on sustainability?
- How do other Universities manage this curriculum issue? What are national best practices, and what models can be adopted for the UW?
- What mechanism can we use to track, identify, and promote these courses going forward, e.g. a database, designator, etc.

Because the work of this committee affects so many parts of the University, please consult with all stakeholders, focusing especially on undergraduate students. I expect that you will seek counsel as well from colleagues at our own institution, including ESC members, as well as nationally respected colleagues.

This committee is tackling an issue of growing importance to the University, and I am looking forward to your advice. Please report to me by June 3, 2013, with your recommendations. I am aware that this is a brief timeline, given the importance and the scope of your review. I would be pleased if you would present me with your findings verbally first, as you are composing the written form. Please keep in mind that we are seeking an array of good ideas rather than a single, specific program or structure. It would be most useful to me and to the President if you could identify options for action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Mari Cauce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ana Mari Cauce
Provost and Executive Vice President

c: President Michael K. Young