UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PROGRAM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

5/8/18

RE: Go Team, Go Green Proposal

Dear Campus Sustainability Fund Committee,

I am writing to express my support of the Go Team, Go Green Proposal. I am very excited about this project and look forward to collaborating with Jason Hodin and Corina Yballa should this proposal be funded. I especially look forward to the opportunities to use the tools and competitions developed in this proposal to enhance student learning in my environmental studies courses.

Each Fall and Winter, I teach ENVIR 239 (Sustainability: Personal Choices, Broad Impacts). This course is an introduction to sustainability, including foci on consumption, waste, food, water, and energy. An exciting component of this course is that students engage in experiential activities, monitoring or changing their sustainability behavior and then reflecting on that change through the dual lenses of academic material and personal experience

Should the Go Team, Go Green proposal be funded, our team will develop digital tools which allow participants to track different environmental behaviors and then measure their carbon footprints. I am excited about the proposed update to the tools available and plan to use these new tools with my students in ENVIR 239. Additionally, I am *thrilled* about the idea of leveraging enthusiasm for intercollegiate athletics to inspire students towards sustainability. ENVIR 239 focuses on students making more sustainable choices in their own lives and I am confident that the friendly competition will inspire them to put in the extra effort to reduce their carbon footprint, as well as to encourage more of them to invite their friends, houses, or teammates to join them. This competition may enhance learning for my students in myriad ways: It may motivate students to learn more about sustainable behaviors so that they can effectively reduce their carbon footprints, and it will inspire others to reflect deeply about the value of individual vs. collective action, and still others to think deeply about the way that small differences in behavior may scale up with enough motivated people.

I eagerly anticipate collaborating with the rest of the project team and using these tools and competitive spirit to enhance learning in my classes.

Sincerely,

Kristina M. Straus

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