



May 12, 2021

Campus Sustainability Fund
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

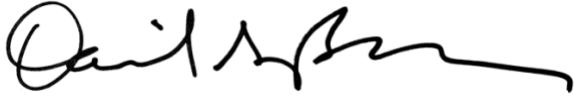
To the Review Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the proposal to the Campus Sustainability Fund from Eli Wheat, Madison Bristol, Perry Acworth, and Yona Sipos. The proposal aims to develop a model of support for the UW Farm, which has seen increasing usage and visibility by students from across campus. As director of the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences I have responsibility for the UW Botanic Gardens (UWBG), which is the home to the largest of the sites for the UW Farm. The farm is an increasingly integral and vibrant part of the programming at UWBG, and I've really enjoyed getting to know about the work of the farm as a member of the Farm Advisory Committee.

It is clear to me that the farm plays a critically important role in providing an integrative and engaged learning laboratory for students from across campus. Because the operation of the farm serves engaged student learning and local production of fresh produce, including that which is used by Housing and Food Services and serves to support local Indigenous practices, the job of operating it to serve both of these goals is a big one. The advisory committee members are fortunate in the level of commitment we have from students, faculty, and staff involved in the farm, but also keenly aware of the stress these dual goals put on key individuals. For example, a key challenge that has come to light is the mis-alignment of the timing for harvest (late summer) and the availability of student volunteers, generally fall through spring.

The proposal outlines a credible approach to bridge toward the greater degree of financial support that is needed to support staffing. It identifies the key challenge for a cross-college resource of this sort and aims to develop the case for a coalition of departments and colleges in providing a more sustainable funding model to support the work at the farm. I support the project outlined in the project and remain committed to working within the Farm Advisory Committee to realize a more sustainable future for this critical resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel G. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel G. Brown, Ph.D.

Corkery Family Director's Endowed Chair and Professor