



Campus Sustainability Fund Committee  
University of Washington

April 13, 2021

Dear members of the Campus Sustainability Fund Committee,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the CSF proposal titled “UW Farm Development Coordinator” being submitted by Eli Wheat, Madison Bristol, Perry Acworth, and Yona Sipos. The proposal would allow an incredible example of sustainability work at the UW to expand its reach and impact.

Having funded several of the great projects at the UW Farm to date, I know you are aware of the work going on at the farm to promote sustainable practices, provide opportunities for students, engage communities, highlight and honor indigenous foods and farming practices, and to provide sustainably grown food to the UW and the greater community. The Farm has been doing all this with a small staff (including a single permanent staff member). To continue to have the broad impact that the UW Farm is having and to better connect the farm with existing UW academic programs, it has become clear that additional staff support is needed.

The Farm has proposed an Interim Development Coordinator position to be held, part-time, by a graduate student. Such a position would not only bolster exiting efforts but would allow the Farm to expand efforts in several key areas including community building across campus and with non-campus partners, education and outreach on sustainable farming to both on-campus and off-campus audiences, and integrating UW Farm programs with UW academic programs.

Speaking as the new Faculty Director of the University of Washington Botanical Gardens, I can say that the UW Farm is one of the best programs the UW BFG has for developing, demonstrating, and engaging the UW and non-UW communities in sustainable farming practices and sustainable living. I see the great need for better connecting the Farm with the existing academic programs at UW to enrich those other programs, engage more students, increase the reach of the Farm and help build longer-term support for the Farm across campus.

To conclude, I strongly support the UW Farm’s proposal to hire a graduate student Interim Development Coordinator and think it would be a wonderful thing for the CSF to fund.

Sincerely,

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