

A Resolution

To equip students with the tools and perspective needed to protect the individual, the environment, and society

Support for a Sustainability Learning Objective Resolution

An Act of the 331st Student Assembly of William & Mary

Sponsored by Senator Justin Bailey ('24)

Supported by Student Assembly President Sydney Thayer ('24), Secretary of Sustainability Tori Carr ('24), Secretary of Diversity Initiatives Oscar Lazo ('25), Secretary of Outreach Victor Gedeck ('24), Secretary of Health & Safety Terra Sloane ('25), Student Sustainability Council, Dining Sustainability Intern Cohort, Student Environmental Action Coalition, IIC Student Leadership Council

WHEREAS, the proposed sustainability learning objective aims to improve student learning and success as part of the University's [Quality Enhancement Plan](#), a required component of our reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC);

WHEREAS, a sustainability learning objective would equip the next generation of leaders with a framework for the interdependent flourishing of the individual, the environment, and society;

WHEREAS, the proposed sustainability learning objective would require that all W&M undergraduate students have a 3-credit experience where the subject matter connects substantially with environmental aspects of sustainability without adding additional credits to students' graduation requirements

WHEREAS, the proposed objective would utilize the existing [SUST attribute](#) and work to expand existing offerings so that students could complete the requirement through courses that already fulfill their existing COLL and major requirements;

WHEREAS, it is a priority within the University strategic planning process to think long-term and inclusively to foster wise decisions towards a flourishing people and planet, for all time coming;

WHEREAS, sustainability is broadly defined and interdisciplinary involving the intersection of the environment, culture, society, the economy, and the individual;

WHEREAS, [W&M's Sustainability Plan](#) ends in 2024, so it is of the utmost importance to continue to meet these goals;

WHEREAS, [W&M Climate Action Roadmap](#) emphasizes education as one of its key strategies in addressing climate change;

WHEREAS, this resolution is supported by professors of many interdisciplinary subjects including geology, sociology, marine science, marketing, biology, anthropology, art and art history, French and francophone studies, government, economics, English, and integrative conservation;

WHEREAS, the proposed Quality Enhancement Plan promotes the university's Vision 2026 goals: promoting both the water and career focuses;

WHEREAS, one of William & Mary's visions is to gather the brightest minds for a better world;

WHEREAS, mitigating climate change and moving toward a more sustainable world is one of the most important and biggest challenges of our generation;

WHEREAS, educating students on sustainability would produce ethical leaders who grasp the urgency of sustainable practices, setting W&M graduates apart as they enter the workforce;

WHEREAS, learning about sustainability emphasizes interdisciplinary problem solving: students value data driven decision making, diverse stakeholder insights alongside a deep humanistic understanding of the cultural dimensions of ecology.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Formally calls on the William & Mary administration to adopt the proposed sustainability learning objective as part of the University's [Quality Enhancement Plan](#), requiring that all W&M undergraduate students have a 3-credit experience where the subject matter connects substantially with environmental aspects of sustainability.