



April 3, 2008

Dear President Pelton,

The Sustainability Council is pleased to offer this letter in support of the core goal of the proposal for a Center for Social Justice and Diversity put forward by the Concerned Students for Social Justice, namely, the establishment of a physical space that would house student resources and perhaps also serve as a meeting place for related committees and councils.

We encourage you to give this proposal serious consideration because we believe that progress toward achieving its key objectives will further our collective aspirations for Willamette University to become a model of what it means to live and work sustainably. As you know, the Sustainability Council has embraced the idea that sustainability requires a holistic vision of ecology, a vision that recognizes the central importance of social justice as a basis for all efforts to protect our environment and our world. We believe that a concrete institutional effort to promote these core ideals will benefit our students and community in multiple ways in the present and long into the future.

In extending our general support, we wish to make it clear that we do not support some of the details in this proposal. Nevertheless, the Council recognizes that there may be multiple ways of achieving the proposal's goals and that the specific logistics will require additional discussion and considerable evaluation. We hope we will be invited to the table should such future discussions arise.

Despite our reservations, we find value in many of the ideas put forward in the proposal and support the creation of what we envision will be a useful resource and a visible symbol of the University's commitment to creating a rich and inclusive living, working, and learning environment.

Sincerely,

The Sustainability Council of Willamette University—

Nathan Sivers-Boyce (Chair)

Jim Bauer

Ian Benson

Robin Morris Collin

Jeff Eisenbarth

Sue Koger

Elliot Maltz

Joyce Millen

Andy Myer

Kiry Nelsen

JoAnn Elizabeth Seibert

Todd Silverstein