Sustainability Scholar Project Guidelines

Problem Statement:

South Florida is ground zero for addressing impacts related to climate change. The University of Miami has made climate-related resilience the core of its mission. This climate crisis requires that we adapt to and mitigate the consequences of climate disruption. One way the University is leading the way on this effort is by pledging to become carbon neutral. The Sustainability Scholar project should be an integral part of this strategy to make the U more sustainable.

General Project Requirements:

- Your project should address one of the following STARS categories: Campus Engagement, Air & Climate, Buildings, Energy, Food & Dining, Grounds, Purchasing, Transportation, Waste, Water, Diversity and Affordability, Investment and Finance, Wellbeing and Work.

- Your project should also align with at least one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

- You must submit a project proposal of no more than five pages, outlining the implementation of an on-campus sustainability initiative.

Project Mentorship Guidelines

Recruit a mentor from university faculty to serve as an advisor. The mentorship/mentee relationship should:

○ Develop a deeper understanding of your field of interest; Provide professional guidance.

○ Cultivate leadership skills.

Report Recommendations:

The recommended sections to include in your project report are listed below:

- A "Challenge Question" is required. Feel free to be creative in your report and add your own flavor, so long as it addresses the general project requirements.

- Introduction: purpose and description of the initiative, sustainable development goal(s) it aims to address.

- Project Rationale: purpose of the project; reasoning and benefits of the project for the community and the University.

- Scope: who is the project targeting? Who are the stakeholders? Where on campus will it be executed? What is the timeline? What Key Performance Indicators will assess the success of this project?

- Research: description of the industry sector, sustainable development goal challenges that the industry sector faces; bibliography and case studies in other Higher Education institutions on the topic.

- Implementation Roadmap: outline of the operation, budget allocation, activity timeline, communication strategy for marketing, risk management plan (anticipated potential roadblocks/dependencies), maintenance plan if necessary.

- Reflection: What were the main challenges you encountered during the project, and how did you overcome them? How did

the project impact you personally, academically, and socially? What insights have you gained about the challenges and opportunities of sustainability initiatives?

- Address the following question in your conclusion: "how could you scale up the project while creating more benefits to the environment?"

Example: [2020](#)

Project Presentation and Judging Panel

- All proposals will be presented for 10 minutes followed by a five-minute Q&A with a judging panel.

- A judging panel will review all proposals to determine if they meet the general project requirements and follow the proposal recommendations.

- During the Seminar session, you will be responsible for creating a 10-minute engaging presentation with approximately a 5-minute Q&A session.

- The Judge panel will be comprised of Faculty, Advisers, Staff, Alumni, Student Leaders and Researchers from the University of Miami.