October 7, 2019

AASHE STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am delighted to affirm that the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is an accurate representation of our campus’ sustainability efforts. I am proud of and strongly support such an appraisal of our sustainability efforts across campus.

UW-Milwaukee has established a strong reputation for taking pride in its stewardship of resources, exemplified by substantial energy conservation and greenhouse gas emission reductions, stormwater green infrastructure and natural lawn care implementations, groundbreaking water stewardship planning efforts, and campus microfarms. Sustainability in public engagement is particularly illustrated through UWM’s partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools and Milwaukee Area Technical College in the youth urban agriculture jobs program, “Learn, Earn, Grow”, as well as through coordinated planning on bike and pedestrian infrastructure with partners across Milwaukee. These programs exemplify UWM’s commitment to excellence, powerful ideas, community and global engagement, and collaborative partnerships that enhance student life here on campus as well as throughout our faculty and staff wellness programs.

Sustainability is embodied throughout the research and curriculum of UWM with over two-thirds of departments offering sustainability course offerings and engaged in sustainability research. Numerous campus living laboratory projects enhance students’ experience in sustainability challenges, opportunities, and entrepreneurial solutions. In particular, UW-Milwaukee, through curriculum in the School of Freshwater Sciences, is the first university to undertake the Alliance for Water Stewardship’s global standard for watershed assessment.
UW-Milwaukee’s participation in STARS provides a valuable measuring tool to help us define and quantify our strengths, as well as bring to light those areas where we can engage in efforts to grow, improve and enhance our sustainability actions across our university.

Best regards,

[Signature]

Mark A. Mone, PhD
Chancellor
UW-Milwaukee