



# Student Government Association

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's City, Maryland, 20686

## Resolution S22:03

*St. Mary's College of Maryland Student Body and Student Government Association Support for the creation of a Kate Chandler Campus Community Farm Manager and Professor Position*

**Sponsors:** *Environmental Protection Committee: Alexander Behzadi, 2022 Class President; Meghan Stevens, Lewis Quad Senator; Quinnten Hatfield, 2025 Class President;*

**Cosponsors:** *Quentin Pastore, 2024 Class President; Kyle Lacey, Commuter Senator*

**Executive Cosponsors:** *Claire Lyhus, Alumni Council Representative; Jesse Majane Director of Campus Programming*

**Community Sponsors:** *Barry Muchnick, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies*

**Whereas:** The Student Government Association has the responsibility of maintaining and improving the campus community, and the Environmental Protection Committee as a part of SGA and as stated in our constitution is only in charge of overseeing the Kate Chandler Campus Community Farm (The Kate Farm);

**Whereas:** The Kate Farm drastically improves the lives of students on campus, enhances our education and college experience, and paved the way for many alumni careers in the food system space. The Kate Farm improves the mental health and well being, nutrition, service-learning, volunteerism, and opportunities for engaged citizenship for all students;

**Whereas:** The Kate Farm has demonstrated its importance for St. Mary's Students through its curricular activities including courses, labs, and service-learning and through its co-curricular activities, including multiple student clubs (Student Garden/Farm Club, Aquaculture Club, Veggie Coop), the Pride Garden, the Kate Farm Film Series, Master Gardener and other workshops. Future careers and career

exploration are also supported on the farm through summer internships, paid positions, fellowships, and the launch of the new Kate Farm Stand;

**Whereas:** To date, The Kate Farm is supported by a network of faculty and community members who volunteer time and support to maintain its success, well-being, and development. This not sustainable and is stretching current faculty too thin;

**Whereas:** The Kate Farm is currently lacking a manager with a background in sustainable agriculture, agribusiness, and farm production who can fully commit to maintaining the operation of the farm.

**Whereas:** Despite The Kate Farm's growth in recent years, the lack of a designated manager has limited growth, diversification, and development of opportunities for students. The creation of a paid manager position would allow for a wider variety of farm-related courses, expansion of the farm itself, increased revenue for the school, and more opportunities for student recruitment, retention, internships and employment.

**Whereas:** This resolution if passed will not only show student support for the campus farm and environmental stewardship but will also serve as an opportunity to demonstrate one of the college's core values of environmental stewardship. If the college is able to create and fill this position it will show the schools true commitment to its overall goals and also open many streams for projects within sustainability and environmental health;

**Whereas:** The SGA and student body of St. Mary's College of Maryland would like for there to be a position for a professor/farm manager familiar with sustainable agriculture to serve as an ENST professor and head manager of the Kate Chandler Campus Community Farm;

**Whereas:** We would like to have a professor/farm manager that will be able to guide the campus farm in a direction that will be advantageous for the SMCM community and student body. The farm provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about and experience sustainable agriculture and the Environmental Studies department. The farm serves as a space for students to grow, learn, get outside, connect, and share in their SMCM experiences and we would like to further this with a full-time farm manager and professor position;

***Be It Hereby Resolved:***

1. The Student Body has officially expressed their desire for St. Mary's College of Maryland to begin the process of hiring a qualified farm manager who will be able

to manage the Kate Chandler Campus Farm and potentially serve as a professor in the Environmental Studies Department.

2. A statement of support for a K3CF Manager will be publicized.
3. By responding to this desire of the student body, the college would demonstrate their commitment to their stated core values as an educational institution