



University Sustainability Advisory Committee Charter

Approved January 9, 2014

ARTICLE I – MISSION

Section 1: Mission

The mission of the University Sustainability Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) is to promote sustainability throughout the University – in planning, development, and operation of the campus environment and facilities, as well as in curriculum innovation, faculty, staff, and student research, and outreach to the greater community. Through these efforts, Western endeavors to become a national leader in sustainability.

ARTICLE II – GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Advisory Committee is charged by the President to develop, recommend and oversee a Western Sustainability Plan containing goals, objectives, metrics and resource needs that identifies the steps necessary to meet Western's strategic goals. The role of the University is to be a place for education and debate. In this sense, the Advisory Committee's responsibility is to encourage passionate but balanced discussion about sustainability. The Advisory Committee does not take or express positions on behalf of the University on matters of public policy.

The Plan will enable Western to become a sustainable campus through three primary activities:

1. Build awareness, understanding, and a culture of sustainability on campus;
2. Promote and coordinate the integration of sustainability between campus operations and academic programs, including teaching, research, and service; and,
3. Report annually to the President and the President's Cabinet on the ongoing measurement of progress toward the long-term goal of sustainability. The report should also contain recommendations for course corrections and Plan adjustments.

In order to align with budget planning timelines, the Plan should be delivered by the end of November 2014. The Advisory Committee will circulate and publish proposed recommendations in order to provide the campus community opportunities to comment and to offer feedback. It is expected that the Advisory Committee will provide updates in the interim.

ARTICLE III – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Advisory Committee will promote integration of sustainability across campus by seeking to incorporate sustainability into the areas of academics and operations.

Among other items, the Plan should seek to address the following:

Operations

- Integration of sustainability into campus operations and long-range planning;
- Reduce resource use, energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and waste generation, seeking cost-savings wherever possible;
- The use of state-of-the-art planning tools and indicators of sustainability that enable assessment of performance; and,
- The development of an action plan for reducing Western's carbon footprint as required by State law and as per our [Climate Action Plan](#).

Academics

- Infuse sustainability into curricula throughout the University to prepare our students to engage global challenges and opportunities;
- Promote the application of the University's expertise to solve complex sustainability challenges;
- Assist and support departments, programs and colleges in the creation and development of courses, curriculum, and interdisciplinary majors and minors related to sustainability;
- Advance and publicize sustainability-related research within and between disciplines;
- Help connect students with faculty, research projects, local organizations, and other resources related to sustainability;
- Encourage innovative organizational structures that facilitate education for sustainability; and,
- Use the campus as a learning laboratory to teach sustainable practices to the campus community.

Collaboration

- Encourage faculty/students to include sustainability efforts in their service learning program;
- Foster collaborations among departments, colleges, and among academic, planning, and operational functions of the University;
- Increase awareness of sustainability principles throughout the campus and the broader community;
- Promote a climate of innovation related to sustainability;
- Recognize, support, and reward initiatives that promote sustainability; and,
- Work with the Northwest Higher Education Coalition to share information on sustainability efforts.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Term of Service

The normal term of service is two academic years, except for students who may serve for a single academic year. A member may continue to serve multiple terms. The appointing entity should stagger the terms, so the initial committee appointment may include one-year terms.

Section 2: Composition

To promote cross-campus collaboration, the Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives from both the academic and operational areas of the University, including the Sustainability Institute, the Office of Sustainability, and others.

Co-Chairs

- Dean, Huxley College of the Environment
- Director, Facilities Management

Program Directors

- Director, Environmental Health and Safety
- Director, University Residences
- Director, Office of Communications and Marketing
- Manager, Office of Sustainability
- Director, Student Activities
- Director, Sustainability Institute Initiative

Faculty

- Selected by the Faculty Senate, up to four faculty representatives.

Students (one-year term, renewable)

- Selected by the Associated Students, four at-large student representatives from relevant and interested activities including colleges, majors, student clubs, and organizations.

Staff

- Program Manager, Sustainable Transportation
- WWU Foundation Representative

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1: Committee Meetings

The Advisory Committee shall meet at least once per quarter. The time and location shall be determined by consensus of the Advisory Committee, and all members shall be notified in advance.

Minutes of meetings will be distributed and posted on the [Western Sustainability](#) website.

Section 2: Subcommittee Meetings

Subcommittees shall meet as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities to the Advisory Committee and at the discretion of the subcommittee chair. Members of subcommittees need not be designated members of the Advisory Committee.