



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

15-16 CAH Sustainability 1  
March 28, 2016

**TO:** The Academic Senate  
**FROM:** The Faculty Sustainability Group  
**SUBJECT:** Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability  
**PURPOSE:** Approval of the Academic Senate

**ACTION REQUESTED:** That the Academic Senate approve the Sustainability Committee as an ongoing ad hoc committee of the Academic Senate with the policies and procedures as specified in this document.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

As described below, Cal State East Bay is bound to address issues of environmental sustainability by senate resolution, by CSU system-wide sustainability policy, and by CSUEB's institutional learning outcomes. These on-going commitments also support many legislative commitments of the State of California. To date the Academic Senate has had no structure through which to participate in these commitments, in which it has a compelling interest on behalf of our students.

In Spring 2007 the Academic Senate "Resolved that the Academic Senate of CSU East Bay supports actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum (including campus facilities and grounds as learning laboratories) and other educational experience for all students." (06-07 BEC; April 3, 2007)

The [2014 CSU Sustainability Policy](#) commits the University to:

- "seek to further integrate sustainability into the academic curriculum working within the normal campus consultative process."
- "develop employee and student workforce skills in the green jobs industry, promote the development of sustainable products and services, and foster economic development."

On January 26, 2016, President Morishita signed the [American College and University President’s Climate Commitment](#), which, among other actions, commits Cal State East Bay to address the following sustainability issues with respect to curriculum, operations, and administration:

<b>1. Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.</b>
a. Within two months of signing this document, create institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the plan.
b. Within one year of signing this document, complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions (including emissions from electricity, heating, commuting, and air travel) and update the inventory every other year thereafter.
c. Within two years of signing this document, develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral, which will include:
i. A target date for achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible.
ii. Interim targets for goals and actions that will lead to climate neutrality.
iii. Actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students.
iv. Actions to expand research or other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality.
v. Mechanisms for tracking progress on goals and actions.

(\*) The commitment includes 2 additional parts, which can be found on the following links:  
<http://secondnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Carbon-Commitment-Second-Nature.pdf>

Beyond climate change, Cal State East Bay is also using the Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) as a mechanism to improve overall sustainability, with the implication that new policies and procedures can derive therefrom.

Cal State East Bay’s fifth Institutional Learning Outcome (ILO5) asserts that “Graduates of CSUEB will be able to act responsibly and sustainably at local, national, and global levels.”

At the same time there are other system-wide and university-wide sustainability issues that require consideration by the Senate. For example, faculty across the CSU system are currently considering creating a system-wide sustainability minor. Affinity hires and mentors are developing collaborative sustainability programs across colleges.

Because campus facilities and operations are a living laboratory for achieving sustainability goals, the Senate, on behalf of our students, has a compelling interest in them. Yet there is currently no formally-recognized Senate body to receive, coordinate, or deliberate sustainability issues. The result has been lack of fulfillment of our own Senate Commitments since 2007, and a lack of participation in administratively led initiatives. The Sustainability Committee will enable the Academic Senate to fulfill its commitments and become a full partner in the University’s sustainability work.



**Sustainability Committee  
Policies and Procedures for Committee Operation**

*History:*

As authorized by Article XIV, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the University Faculty, approved February 1971 *and revised 8/99*, the Academic Senate may create ad hoc committees. These policies and procedures for the conduct of its operations shall be established on adoption of the Sustainability Committee by the Academic Senate.

**ARTICLE I  
Membership**

**Section 1:**

The Committee shall be composed of 14 members, as follows:

9 faculty members, one of whom shall serve simultaneously on the Campus Sustainability Committee. (All faculty members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee).

1 student member (appointed by ASI)

4 liaison (advisory, non-voting) members as follows:

- Director of Sustainability
- Director of University Parking and Transportation)
- Director of Environmental Health and Safety
- Energy and Utilities Manager

In appointing faculty members, the Executive Committee shall consider the candidates' expertise, experience, and/or interest in environmental sustainability.

**Section 2:**

When a faculty member of the Committee has been absent without explanation from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Committee that person shall be asked to submit a *Sustainability Committee Policies and Procedures for Committee Operation; 15-16 CAH Sustainability 1*

resignation in order that the position be filled (see Bylaws, Article XVI, Section 8B). If he/she refuses to do so, the Committee by a two-thirds vote may declare the position vacant and request that the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate initiate procedures to provide a replacement.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Officers**

#### **Section 1:**

Responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the Committee is vested in its Chair and its Secretary, elected annually at its first meeting of the academic year by the newly elected and continuing members. Effective conduct of the affairs of the Committee requires the joint effort of its officers and all regular members, based upon the principle of full and open communication.

#### **Section 2:**

The Chair of the Committee shall preside over the meetings of the Committee. The Chair shall appoint, in consultation with the Committee, members of all regular and special subcommittees of the Committee. At the end of each academic year, the Chair (with the assistance of the Secretary) shall report to the Academic Senate concerning actions taken during the year and any unfinished business.

#### **Section 3:**

In the absence or disability of the Committee Chair, the Committee shall elect a Chair *pro tempore*. Similarly, in the absence or disability of the Committee Secretary, the Committee shall elect a Secretary *pro tempore* for a specific meeting.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Duties**

#### **Section 1:**

- (1) Make policy recommendations to the Academic Senate regarding means to achieve the University's sustainability commitments and goals. As part of that work:
  - a. Review Senate Policies and Procedures as they relate to achieving Senate sustainability commitments and goals;
  - b. Work with other Senate bodies, the Campus Sustainability Committee, and other campus entities to support the University's sustainability commitments and goals; and
  - c. Report to the Senate annually on the status of sustainability affairs on campus, including but not limited to, monitoring progress toward meeting Senate Sustainability Resolution (06-07 BEC 9).
  
- (2) Promote sustainability as a focus of curricular and co-curricular activities, consistent with the University's sustainability commitments and goals. As part of that work:
  - a. Track CSUEB, CSU-system-wide (and other relevant) commitments, policies, proposals and best practices regarding sustainability in the curriculum
  - b. Work with other university entities to develop and carry out collaborative living

- laboratory projects both on campus and in the surrounding community.
- c. Proposals that the Committee makes concerning academic programs and curriculum shall be subject to review and approval of the Senate Committees responsible for those activities as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the University Faculty.
- (3) Review and make recommendations related to sustainability on plans for campus infrastructure development, including but not limited to reviewing projects and plans for buildings, grounds, and transportation.
- (4) Promote opportunities for sustainability research and scholarship.
- (5) Report to the Senate annually on the work of the Committee in carrying out the duties described in this section. As part of that report:
- a. include a status report on sustainability affairs on campus, including but not limited to, monitoring progress toward meeting Senate Sustainability Resolution (06-07 BEC 9).
  - b. Include a status report on progress and barriers to achieving sustainability-related curricular and co-curricular commitments, policies, and goals, as related to duties describe in (2)a of this section.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Meetings**

#### **Section 1: Time and Place**

The regular meetings of the Committee shall be 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM on the first and third Mondays of each month during the academic year at a place to be designated by the Chair, in consultation with the staff of the Office of the Academic Senate.

#### **Section 2: Quorum**

A majority of the faculty members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at its meetings.

#### **Section 3: Minutes**

Minutes will be taken by the Committee Secretary and distributed in the manner prescribed by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate.

#### **Section 4: Order of Business**

The order of business at regular meetings of the Committee shall be:

- 1) Approval of the agenda for the meeting
- 2) Approval of the minutes for the previous meeting
- 3) Report of the Chair
- 4) Report of the Campus Sustainability Committee Representative
- 5) Report of the student representative
- 6) Report of the Subcommittees

- 7) Items of business
- 8) Adjournment

Items may be added to the agenda from the floor of the Committee by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

### **Section 5: Agenda**

- 1) The Chair of the Committee will prepare agendas from items submitted to the Chair from other members of the Committee and/or the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, including referrals from the Senate Chair.
- 2) Agendas will be circulated to the Committee membership within a reasonable amount of time prior to scheduled meetings, and posted online to the Committee webpage.

### **Section 6: Voting**

- 1) Motions made on the floor of the Committee shall be written (this may be done by the Secretary) and read to the Committee prior to the vote.
- 2) Bylaw V.3 of the University Faculty shall apply to voting by the Committee.

### **Section 7: The First Meeting of the Academic Year**

At the first meeting of the academic year, the Committee shall elect a chair and secretary. The chair shall be a member of the faculty. The first item of new business will be approval of the policies and procedures of the Committee.

## **ARTICLE V Subcommittees**

### **Section 1:**

All regular (voting) members of the Committee are expected to assist in the conduct of the affairs of the Committee by full and effective participation as members of regular and special subcommittees.

### **Section 2:**

The Chair of the Committee shall appoint the members of subcommittees (if such exist) annually, in consultation with the whole Committee and subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate. At least one member of each subcommittee shall be a member of the Committee; other members may be drawn from any segment of the University Community. Members of subcommittees shall be chosen with a view of their special acquaintance with the subjects within the purview of the subcommittee.

### **Section 3:**

*Sustainability Committee Policies and Procedures for Committee Operation; 15-16 CAH Sustainability 1*

In consultation with the Committee, the Chair may establish special subcommittees; and the Chair may with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint persons who are not members of the Committee. Special subcommittees shall go out of existence at the end of the academic year.

**Section 4:**

Each regular and special subcommittee shall elect its own chair and shall designate one of its members as reporter to the Sustainability Committee. The chair of a regular subcommittee must be a member of the faculty.

**Section 5:**

Each regular and special subcommittee reports directly to the Sustainability Committee. Unless provided for otherwise in these procedures, the Committee may amend or refer back to subcommittee any recommendation of a subcommittee.

**Section 6: Regular Subcommittees**

The regular subcommittees of the Sustainability Committee are:

- 1) None

**Section 7: Procedures of the Subcommittees**

Unless noted otherwise in the charge for a subcommittee, the Policies and Procedures for the Sustainability Committee apply to its subcommittees.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Amendment and Suspension of these Policies and Procedures**

**Section 1:**

The Committee shall take final action on proposed amendments, or on proposed new policies and procedures, or on repeal of these policies and procedures only at its regular meetings.

**Section 2:**

Policies and procedures may be added to, amended, or repealed in whole or part, if approved by a two-thirds vote of all the voting members of the Committee, and by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate.

**Section 3:**

All modifications of existing policies and procedures, and all newly-enacted policies and procedures shall become effective upon approval of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate unless a later date has been explicitly stated and accepted.

**ARTICLE VII Parliamentary Authority**

Questions of order not covered by these Policies and Procedures shall be covered by *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

