Campus Sustainability Committee

Issue Summary
The following parameters promote the need for a campus committee dedicated to discussion of sustainability and natural resource management.

1. In 2007 Eastern Washington University accepted the challenge to reduce campus emissions by becoming signatory to the American Colleges and University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). This commitment publically demonstrates Eastern’s obligation towards sustainability and emissions reduction. Signatory agencies are required to develop institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of a Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP is a comprehensive plan for the university to achieve climate neutrality within a prescribe timeline.

2. The State of Washington through legislation (RCW 70.235) has mandated that state agencies provide and implement planning to reduce greenhouse gas emission and reduce the carbon footprint on campuses including Eastern Washington University.

3. While Eastern’s commitment to environmental and climate neutrality issues has been firmly imbedded in our campus it is important that we adopt a formal gathering, review and recommendation process for stakeholder engagement. Eastern provides a leadership role in the community and along with other institutions across the nation is developing plans to minimize our operational impact on the environment. Eastern has developed a set of tangible goals with timelines to meet the intent of the AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) and the ACUPCC.

4. Eastern has been making significant impacts with regards to conservation and sustainability in area of recycling, LEED building assurances, building automation and plant operations. We continue to look for new processes and projects that promote continuous improvement in natural resource management and campus sustainability. To continually engage and communicate with university stakeholders will enhance Eastern’s commitment.

Mission Statement for Sustainability Committee
The mission of Eastern Washington University’s Sustainability Committee to support university leadership in its goal of promoting environmental sustainability and reducing the impact of university operations has on the environment. The committee is charged with being an instrument for the discussion of sustainability and energy conservation between the various campus stakeholders. The committee will report to and provide information to the president, for his comment and direction.

Committee Objectives
1. **Goal Development** – Provide to the president recommendations for sustainable goals for the university and schedules to meet those goals. Review and recommend KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) to track progress against goals. Goals will be both short and long term in nature and within our current budgetary considerations.

2. **Communication** - A sounding board for university stakeholders and shareholders to provide input into university conservation and sustainability issues. This group will assist in keeping the university aware of upcoming actions required to meet our obligations to the American Colleges and University President’s Climate Commitment and legislative requirements of the State of Washington. This committee will also report back to stakeholders the direction of the president with regard to submitted initiatives.

3. **Proposal Review/Recommendation** – Research and review of potential projects and initiatives brought forward from stakeholders that would benefit Eastern to meeting and exceed the
commitment to sustainability and natural resource conservation. This group will offer support to putting the ideas into a format for review and decision by the president.

4. **Education** - This committee will also provide information to the campus community on items of interest, events and opportunities for increased knowledge of the university’s direction with regards to conservation and sustainability

**Committee Structure**
1. This committee is advisory to the president of the university.
2. The committee will be co-chaired by the AVP for Facilities and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.
3. There will be eleven (11) committee members. (not including support staff)
4. Committee structure (representation) will consist of two students recommended by ASEWU, two faculty members recommended by the Faculty Organization, one Dean recommended by the Provost, two exempt employees recommended by the Vice Presidents and two classified employees recommended by the classified union.
5. Committee members will have a (2) two-year term on the committee.
6. Sub-committees maybe formed to concentrate on specific or more detailed issues that require research or more concentrated effort.

**Committee Process**
1. Meetings to be scheduled once per month unless otherwise decided by committee process.
   a. Committee members should be aware that there will be a time commitment to the process aside from the monthly meetings (i.e. sub committees, work sessions etc.
2. Committee meetings will have formal structure that will include:
   a. Meeting agenda
   b. Announcements
   c. Old Business
   d. New Business
3. Rules of Order will be provided and followed during committee meetings.
4. Meeting minutes will be taken and posted or distributed.

**Responsibility of Committee members**
1. Time commitment to process.
2. Establish defined goals and objectives. Establish reporting process for president and stakeholders
3. Review and knowledge of core documents
   a. American Colleges and University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).
   b. RCW 70.235
   c. University Climate Action Plan (CAP)
4. Develop Draft submission/review protocols
   a. Develop Committee Protocols
      i. Short and Long term goals tied to university strategic planning.
   b. Website Development.
   c. Regularly scheduled meeting.
   d. Format a standard for submittals of project ideas (submittal form).
5. Establish Sub Committees for large initiatives.
6. Provide communication from/to units on committee activity.
7. Coming prepared to monthly committee meetings.