

# **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Sustainability Advisory Committee Charter**

## **Definition of Sustainability**

The most commonly held definition of sustainability is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” UNC faculty have defined sustainability as “an interdisciplinary field focusing on the dynamic relationship between the environment, economy, and society. Sustainable systems preserve and advance social equity, economic prosperity, and the healthy functioning of ecological systems now and in the future.”

## **Statement of Purpose**

The Sustainability Advisory Committee advises the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. The Committee makes recommendations on the development and implementation of sustainable policies, practices, research, and curricula across the University. The Committee recommends long-term sustainability goals for the University and identifies the means to achieve them. The Committee is charged with developing a better understanding of existing incentives and disincentives and to propose more effective strategies. Committee members are expected to solicit input on these strategies and to champion and communicate them to each member’s respective areas of involvement so that all campus stakeholders become informed take ownership of sustainability initiatives.

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Devise a comprehensive and common-sense way to foster sustainability across the entire organization.
- Improve the University’s sustainability intelligence – how information is gathered and reported, findings analyzed, lessons learned, and results applied.
- Utilize sustainability for the University’s competitive advantage – in recruitment, fundraising, financial and resource management, and funded research.
- Disseminate sustainability accomplishments, tools, and challenges.
- Establish campus-wide measurement methodologies for quantifying, comparing, benchmarking, and prioritizing progress toward sustainability.
- Foster linkages among and within campus departments, both operational and academic.
- Develop tools and incentives that make the sustainable choice the easy choice.
- Advise the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration on all matters related to Campus Sustainability.

## **Membership**

Sustainability Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration to be broadly representative of all campus constituencies; to provide expertise in planning, operations, academics, research, and student life; and to bring their unique familiarity with various aspects of sustainability.

Membership consists of:

Director, Center for Sustainable Enterprise, Co-chair  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Energy, Environment, Health, and Campus Safety, Co-chair  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Designee  
Vice Chancellor for Research Designee  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Designee  
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Designee  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences Administrative Designee  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Designee  
Dean, School of Government Designee  
Dean, School of Medicine Designee  
Dean, School of Public Health Designee  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Services Designee  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities Operations, Planning & Design  
Chair, Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology  
Director, Athletics Designee  
Director, Center for Faculty Excellence Designee  
Director, Energy Services  
Director, Institute for the Environment Designee  
Director, Materials and Disbursement Services  
Director, Sustainability Office  
Graduate Student Government Representative, one-year term  
Undergraduate Student Government Representative, one-year term

## **Committee Procedures**

Assessing the long-term effects of campus decisions, and including sustainability principles in decision-making, is a process of continuous improvement. The Committee's composition is intended to bring together the perspectives of diverse stakeholder groups to ensure that sustainability principles and practices are adopted as a part of the University's journey toward becoming the leading public university. The Committee is not a proportionately representative, oversight, policy, or rulemaking body, and thus is expected to arrive at its recommendations by consensus rather than by vote. As an advisory group, the Committee must understand that the University has many competing needs and limited resources, and may not be able to implement every recommendation. The Committee should endeavor to provide advice that is viewed as balanced, objective, practical, and in the best interests of the entire campus community. The Committee will work year-round and may organize its work and meeting schedule as it deems appropriate. The Committee is encouraged to keep a record or minutes of its meetings and post updates to the Sustainability website to insure that the campus receives accurate, complete, and timely information.