

Academic Senate Sustainability Committee Annual Report for 2016-2017

This memo serves as an annual report from the Academic Senate Sustainability Committee regarding our activities for the 2016-2017 academic school year.

We had an active year and would like to take a moment and share: 1) results of our efforts this year; and 2) on-going initiatives for next year.

Outcomes of Academic Senate Sustainability Committee efforts in 2016-2017

1. The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee produced the USC Sustainability Strategy 2030 document. This report builds upon the USC Sustainability 2020 Plan while calling for a more ambitious and better-connected sustainability agenda for the university.
2. The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee worked with the Environmental Student Assembly to organize and deliver the USC Sustainability Forum. This event served as an important opportunity to engage the broader USC community (students, faculty, and staff) in a dialogue on the current state of sustainability at USC and included reactions and feedback on the USC Sustainability Strategy 2030 proposal. We recommend holding the USC Sustainability Forum as an annual event.
3. The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee created two organizational charts that show: 1) the current structure and workflow of sustainability at USC; and 2) a proposed Sustainability Leadership Council that aims to ensure effective strategic leadership of sustainability efforts across the university.
4. The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee engaged in relationship building efforts with key constituencies across campus to help understand and advance sustainability at USC, which includes: the Office of Sustainability, the Environmental Student Assembly, Ecore, Undergraduate Student Government (USG), Graduate Student Government (GSG), Staff Assembly (SA), and the Provost's Task Force on Security and Sustainability.
5. The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee presented the USC Sustainability Strategy 2030 and received a vote of endorsement from the Academic Senate and Undergraduate Student Government.
6. The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee participated in the USC Staff Assembly Environmental Fair, and administered a volunteer survey to gain insight into student, faculty, and staff perceptions, attitudes, and preferences regarding sustainability at USC.

7. The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee worked with the USC Daily Trojan to produce a news article informing the USC community on the content, purpose, and motivation for creating the USC Sustainability Strategy 2030 proposal. See link: <http://dailytrojan.com/2017/04/26/academic-senate-to-host-sustainability-2030-forum/>

On-going Initiatives for 2017-2018

1. Advance the USC Sustainability Strategy 2030 by refining details of proposal goals and objectives to constructing a strategy for implementation.
2. Work with the Provost's Task Force on Security and Sustainability to develop a comprehensive strategy to advance sustainability at USC.
3. Conduct a curriculum assessment of course offerings across all schools to catalogue existing course and academic program offerings in sustainability.
4. Work with the Office of Sustainability to discuss priorities and obstacles to advancing the USC Sustainability 2020 Plan.
5. Help facilitate a sustainability survey to faculty and staff to gain insight on sustainability practices, education, awareness, and priorities of these constituencies.
6. Investigate the feasibility and requirements for adding a GE in sustainability and environmental literacy to the undergraduate curriculum.

The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee welcomes your input and participation to help advance and resolve issues of sustainability and/or environmental conservation confronting the University. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to me at druddell@usc.edu

Sincerely,



Darren Ruddell
Chair, Academic Senate Sustainability Committee