

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Campus Sustainability
AREA: Sustainability - General

Number: 14.01.01

SUBJECT: Campus Sustainability

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Universities are charged with educating the next generation of decision makers and, through research, finding solutions to tomorrow's problems. The University of Houston commits to defining sustainability and what it means for our campus, measuring our efforts, and translating these measurements into a comprehensive strategy for university sustainability.

As such, the University administration and Campus Sustainability Task Force recognize the need for a central, collaborative structure for the development of the University's sustainability strategy and policy development. Consequently the Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance has convened the Campus Sustainability Task Force (CSTF).

This document outlines the framework and roles and responsibilities for the University's sustainability activities and initiatives.

II. POLICY

The University of Houston educates tomorrow's decision makers and consequently has a responsibility to ensure that all of its students are imbued with a sound understanding of what sustainability means in practical terms. The CSTF, acting with the support of the President and the Board of Regents, is charged with developing and implementing policies and practices that create a campus culture of sustainability.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Sustainability: The United Nations defines sustainability as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. The CSTF will work to establish a definition applicable to the University of Houston.

- B. [Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting System \(STARS\)](#): STARS is a collaborative project under the auspices of the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#). It is a voluntary, self-reporting framework for gauging relative progress toward sustainability for colleges and universities and is designed to:
1. Provide a guide for advancing sustainability in all sectors of higher education.
 2. Enable meaningful comparisons over time and across institutions by establishing a common standard of measurement for sustainability in higher education.
 3. Create incentives for continual improvement toward sustainability.
 4. Facilitate information sharing about higher education sustainability practices and performance.
 5. Build a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community.

IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. To guide the campus in developing sustainable strategies, the University commits to using AASHE principles, including STARS.
- B. The Campus Sustainability Task Force is charged with the following:
1. Developing and implementing the campus sustainability strategies and policies.
 2. Instituting monitoring mechanisms for sustainable campus activities and practices, including:
 - a. Completing a vision document and establishing annual goals for the Task Force.
 - b. Completing, presenting, and publishing the University's carbon footprint calculation annually.
 - c. Completing, presenting, and publishing the STARS and other benchmarks of University sustainability annually.
 - d. Measuring cost savings or cost recovery for each sustainable initiative annually.
 - e. Establishing reporting mechanisms for each sustainable strategy or policy.

3. Implementing campus sustainability recommendations utilizing campus resources.
4. Coordinating and promoting campus-wide sustainability events, policies and actions.

V. TASK FORCE COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT TERMS

The Task Force will be composed of the following:

- A. The Assistant Vice President for University Services serving in a facilitation and coordination role.
- B. Four faculty members: two appointed by the Faculty Senate and two at-large members appointed by the Assistant Vice President for University Services through an application process.
- C. Four students: two appointed by the Student Government Association, one appointed by the Environmental Club at the University, and one appointed by the Assistant Vice President for University Services through an application process.
- D. Four staff members: two appointed by the Staff Council, one appointed through the College/Division Administrators, and one appointed by the Assistant Vice President for University Services through an application process.
- E. Additional resources may be appointed in an ex-officio capacity to serve as a resource to the Task Force members.
- F. Rules relating to guests – not including invited subject matter experts- will be posted on the Campus Sustainability Task Force web site.
- G. The term appointments of the members will be two-year appointments, except student position which will be one-year appointments. Members can be re-appointed to serve additional terms.

VI. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible Party: Assistant Vice President for University Services

Review: Every three years, on or before June 1

VII. APPROVAL

Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance

President

Date of President's Approval: _____