



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

President's Sustainability Advisory Committee

June 17, 2015

MEMO

To: Provost Tracy  
From: President's Sustainability Advisory Committee Leaders  
(Lee Meyer, Courtney Fisk, Shane Tedder)  
Re: Creation of a Faculty Sustainability Advisory Council (FSAC) to advise the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee on faculty issues

When the leadership of the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee met with you on May 13, we discussed the need to for an improved mechanism to bring attention and solutions for the curricula and research dimensions, i.e. faculty issues, of sustainability. You invited us to bring a proposal to you. Our proposal follows. We look forward to your response.

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Established in May of 2008 by AR 6:8 [PDF], the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee grew out of the work of a task force appointed by then President Todd.

As defined by this AR: *The mission of the Sustainability Advisory Committee is to promote sustainability within the University and in the University's relations with the larger community to enhance the University's standing as a global leader in sustainability. The goal of the committee is to make the University of Kentucky—in its operations, education, research and outreach—a model of sustainability. The committee will make recommendations on a more holistic approach to the development and implementation of sustainable policies, practices, research and curricula for the University of Kentucky and identify the means to achieve them.*

To meet our charge of identifying the means to achieve the *development and implementation of sustainable policies, practices, research and curricula*, we recommend the formation of a faculty council charged with providing input and recommendations to improve the PSAC's effectiveness in achieving its mission of making UK curriculum and research a model of sustainability.

The Challenge: To date, the PSAC has had particular difficulty with the research and curriculum components of its charge, in part because of the small number of faculty on the Committee. Of its 15 members, only three are faculty. More faculty input is needed to develop robust recommendations. As written in its establishment AR, the PSAC shall, "Create and appoint such technical advisory task forces and committees as may be appropriate to advise the Committee and to foster increased opportunities for campus community involvement and input." We propose using that authority to establish a "faculty sustainability advisory council" which will advise the PSAC on faculty related elements of sustainability policy for UK.

Our proposed Faculty Sustainability Advisory Council (FSAC) would be composed of one faculty member from each of UK's colleges and centers recommended by the deans and directors, with final appointment from the Provost. This Council would be chaired by a faculty member of the PSAC. FSAC members would serve three year terms (initially randomly appointed for 1, 2 and 3-year terms). The FSAC would meet three times a year on an agenda developed in collaboration with the PSAC. We propose a sunset provision – after two years, the PSAC, in partnership with the Provost, will assess the value of the FSAC and determine if it should be continued.

The purpose of the FSAC is to provide input and recommendations to improve the PSAC's effectiveness in achieving its mission of making UK curriculum and research a model of sustainability. Specific examples might include sustainability related courses (Are there gaps? Is funding appropriately allocated?) and policies that incentivize sustainability-focused research (perhaps connected with the sustainability challenge grant program) and enhance success in extra mural funding.

Planned Deliverables from the FSAC:

- A review of benchmark universities and recognized national leaders in sustainability;
- A review of the current strength, weaknesses, opportunities and deficiencies regarding sustainability in the curriculum and research program at UK; including recommendations for new courses and programs and changes in funding structures and policies affecting research;
- Recommendations for short, medium and long-term goals and plans to pursue them;
- Recommendation for an assessment/review process 2-3 years into the future to evaluate the efficacy of the effort.

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Response from Provost Time Tracy, June 22, 2015

Lee,

Thanks for sending this. I'm on vacation this week (though, apparently I haven't stopped working yet). I like the idea of getting more faculty input. I offer the following questions/suggestions:

1. I can appreciate trying to be inclusive by requiring a member from each college, but I worry as to whether we will get a truly interested party (faculty member) from each college and thus, less than desired participation. What if we made it a committee of 6-8 faculty who are truly interested in the topic (research shows that committees with more than 6-8 people lose true input and participation of all involved)?
2. Rather than the appointments coming from the Provost's office, would it be better coming from the Senate and Senate Council? What you propose for them to do is great, but I worry about getting this accomplished with a committee of 15 spread across the colleges.

Thoughts? Tim



February 11, 2016

Professor Andrew Hippisley  
Chair, Senate Council  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40506

Dear Andrew:

The purpose of this letter is to express the sentiment of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APP) regarding sustainability as an academic priority, in general, and our willingness to lend faculty voice to the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee (PSAC), in particular.

I am aware that PSAC leadership is scheduled to engage in discussions at the upcoming Senate Council meeting. So, to the extent that PSAC aims to develop academic programming, defined broadly, APP stands at the ready to support these efforts.

Should you require more information or greater insight about APP's views, please don't hesitate to contact me at [walter.ferrier@uky.edu](mailto:walter.ferrier@uky.edu).

Most sincerely,

*Wally*

Walter J. Ferrier, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Management

cc: Professor A. Lee Meyer, Co-chair PSAC  
Professor Ernest Yanarella  
APP Committee Members