

# **Penn State Abington Sustainability Council (PSASC) Charter**

## **Mission**

The Penn State Abington Sustainability Council (PSASC) encourages initiatives and offers programs and recommendations that incorporate sustainable practices and sustainability education into every action on campus, including teaching, research, operations, and community engagement.

The purpose of the PSASC is to strategically advance the University's sustainability goals from within the Abington campus community by implementing and supporting initiatives that address all of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ultimately the PSASC serves as a repository of resources that contribute to Penn State Abington's capacity to meet the needs of the campus community in a manner that can continue indefinitely with little or no impact on future generations, focusing on the principles of sustainability outlined in the SUST 242 textbook:

- scientific: our reliance on solar radiation, chemical cycling, and biodiversity
- political
- economic
- ethical

## **Objectives**

The PSASC will be consulted with, via the Council Chair, on matters that affect the physical campus environment, the development of the strategic plan for the campus, and changes to the College environment.

The PSASC will report directly to the Chancellor with recommendations that contribute to the development, coordination, and maintenance of:

- Conservation of the natural ecosystems and preservation of existing sustainability education structures on campus, and inclusion of their use in the curriculum
- Identification of, consistency of, and support from the Sustainability Institute for, all campus sustainability initiatives
- Knowledgeability of sustainability's definition and characterization, including applications within and connections between all departments
- Identification of existing, and addition of new, sustainability concepts and issues in the curriculum of all academic departments
- Identification and support of operations that contribute to the reduction of waste, energy use, and pollution, and set an example of sustainable practices for the campus and surrounding community
- Campus Green Teams
- Campus sustainability committees and subcommittees
- Identification and distribution of internal and external opportunities for support
- Council generated opportunities for support

## **Membership**

The PSASC is a body seated by the Chancellor, facilitated by a chair, and composed of faculty, staff, students and stakeholders:

- one faculty member from each academic division
- one faculty member from Penn State Abington Faculty Senate
- one staff member from each of the following administrative departments:
  - Academic Affairs
  - Library
  - Student Affairs
  - Strategic Communications and Community Engagement
  - Business Services
  - Online and Information Technology
- three student representatives:
  - one Student Organization Executive Board member
  - one SGA Abington officer
  - one member of the student body at-large
- one community member

Council will have a chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and communications curator.

Faculty and Staff Appointment is by Council solicitation, or self/colleague nomination with Council approval. Term lengths are one academic year, with consecutive terms at the discretion of Council and as per minimum attendance requirements.

Students are appointed by the Student Government Association of Penn State Abington. Term lengths are one academic year, with consecutive terms at the discretion of SGA Abington and as per minimum attendance requirements.

## **Council Meetings**

Council will meet once monthly in September, October, November, January, February, March and April for the academic year.

Council members are expected to attend all meetings. A minimum attendance of five Council meetings is required to maintain membership for the next academic year.

Prior to Council meetings, the Chair will communicate with the secretary, who will prepare and distribute an agenda to all members. Each meeting's agenda will include status or progress reports from representatives of the academic divisions, administrative departments, faculty senate, the community, Student Organizations and SGA Abington. These standing agenda items will be in addition to any items submitted in advance for inclusion in the agenda. The minutes will be recorded by the secretary and submitted directly to the current online repository and made available to the Chancellor.

This charter will be reviewed annually in April.