

## Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee

### Purpose

The Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee (ESSC) is a standing University committee responsible for making recommendations to the University Council regarding the University's impact on and stewardship of the environment.

### Membership

The ESSC consists of nine members: four faculty, three staff, and two students. The membership also includes the following voting members who serve *ex-officio*: the Chair of the University Recycling Committee, the Director of Land Development and Government Relations, the Director of Physical Plant, the Master Gardener, the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, the faculty liaison to the Land Use Committee of the Board, and the outgoing ESSC Chair.

Two faculty members are to be elected by the faculty to serve staggered three-year terms. The two remaining faculty members will be appointed to staggered three-year terms by the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) not later than May of each year.

Staff members will be appointed by the Executive Vice President, in consultation with the Vice President for Business and Finance. One student will be appointed by the Student Government Association. The other student will be the President of the Environmental Club or his/her representative.

### Organization

The chair of the ESSC is appointed by the President from the membership of the Committee in May of each year to serve the following academic year. It governs itself, its agenda, and the frequency of its meetings. The ESSC reports to the Chair of the University Council. The University Recycling Committee is a special committee of the ESSC, to which it reports, responsible for the design and implementation of recycling on campus. The University Recycling Committee elects its own chair not later than May of each year. The membership of the University Recycling Committee will be determined by its chair in consultation with the Vice President for Business and Finance. It governs itself, its agenda, and the frequency of its meetings.

### Duties

1. The ESSC reviews policies and makes recommendations concerning issues that affect the University's use of natural resources, implementation of ecologically friendly initiatives as part of the University's vision statement and strategic plan, and implementation of green architecture standards and landscape designs, purposes, and practices.
2. The ESSC considers ways to increase environmental awareness on campus, understanding of the importance of environmental issues in our commitment to social justice, commitment of the campus community to environmental issues, and institutionalized consideration and assessment of environmental effects of all proposed changes to policy or operating procedure, when appropriate.
3. The ESSC makes recommendations regarding energy use, waste disposal and recycling, water use and quality, water and air emissions, air quality, conservation, land use and preservation, biodiversity, and sustainability.
4. The ESSC is responsible for the implementation of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, to which the University is a signatory.