

President's Commission on Sustainability Charter

Article I – Purpose and Definitions

Section 1: Purpose of the President's Commission on Sustainability (PCS)

The PCS at Clemson University will be the coordinating body for our efforts to become a model of affordable, fiscally responsible, environmental sustainability for public institutions of higher education. To creatively address sustainability, the PCS will facilitate collaboration among students, faculty, staff and the community by integrating education, research, and public service with supporting social, economic and environmental infrastructure.

Section 2: Definition of Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the physical development and institutional operating practices that "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

- World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

Section 3: Scope

The PCS will address all properties owned by Clemson University whether they are on campus or off campus.

Article II – Responsibilities

The PCS advises the President and other members of the University administration on matters pertaining to sustainability at Clemson University.

The responsibilities of the PDS are to:

1. Engage university stakeholders in a joint effort to reduce the university's ecological footprint and its impact on the environment.
2. Work with the university community and others to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to preserve natural resources, and to integrate sustainability into existing educational, operational, research, and public service program.
3. Incorporate sustainability into long-range planning and design.
4. Plan and implement a university sustainability/climate-neutral action plan in accordance with the President's Climate Commitment.
5. Provide a foundation for Clemson University's support of system wide efforts to meet the university's climate-neutral goals.
6. Give equal weight to short and long-range sustainability issues and initiatives.
7. Incorporate financial costs and impact into sustainability plans and recommendations.
8. Represent Clemson University at meetings, symposia and other events related to environmental sustainability.

Article III – Organization

Section 1: Decision Making

Decisions of the PCS shall be by a majority vote of a quorum of its members. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the PCS. A vote of the PCS will be taken to approve official recommendations (e.g., campus sustainability/climate action plan, campus policy, etc.) Subcommittees shall be governed in the same fashion.

Section 2: Officers

The PCS Chair, who is selected by the President, is delegated the task of forming and maintaining the PCS and subcommittees. The Chair is responsible for setting and distributing meeting agendas, facilitating meetings, and serving as a liaison between the PCS and the President.

Section 3: Communication/Reporting

Each quarter, the Chair shall report in writing to the President on the progress of the PCS. At least once a year, the President will attend and address the PCS.

Section 4: Subcommittees

The PCS may create and change subcommittees to focus on specific projects. Focus areas may include but are not limited to: Graduate & Undergraduate Curriculum; Energy and Environment; Off Campus Properties; and/or Programs and initiatives. The Chairperson of each subcommittee shall be chosen from the membership of the PCS and will oversee all work done by that subcommittee. Subcommittees shall provide updates to the PCS. The PCS may dissolve any subcommittees determined to be no longer necessary.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1: PCS Composition

At a minimum, the PCS will be composed of faculty, staff and students, and shall include the following:

- a. Chair of the PCS, to be appointed by the President.
- b. One representative from each of the following operational areas:
 - i. Student Affairs, to be appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs;
 - ii. Public Service Activities, to be appointed by the Vice President for PSA;
 - iii. Clemson Experimental Forest, to be appointed by the President; and
 - iv. Environmental Committee Representative, to be appointed by the Committee.
- c. Faculty representatives as follows (three):
 - i. Faculty representatives shall be appointed by the Faculty Senate from the Faculty at Large and shall have a three-year staggered term

limit. Each member shall be from a different College (to include the Library). Appointees may include Emeriti faculty. Appointees shall have a demonstrated knowledge, interest, and ability in the subject of sustainability and shall not be sitting on the Senate at the time of nomination or appointment.

- d. Student representatives as follows:
 - i. One Junior and one Senior undergraduate student appointed by the Undergraduate Student Government.
 - ii. One Graduate student appointed by the Graduate Student Government.
- e. President's Chief of Staff
- f. Ex Officio Members
 - i. Staff member from the University Planning & Design Office
 - ii. Staff member from the Public Affairs Office
 - iii. Others as needed.

Section 2: Service

The Chair will be appointed or reappointed by the President on an annual basis. PCS members shall serve for one-year terms and may be reappointed to successive terms. In the event of the removal, withdrawal or inability to serve of a member, a replacement for such member shall be chosen in the same manner as the member whom they are replacing and such replacement member shall serve out the balance of the unexpired term of the member they are replacing.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1: PCS Meetings

The PCS shall meet every month. The agenda will be determined by the PCS Chair based on recommendations from PCS members. A request for agenda topics will be sent to the PCS members in advance of each meeting.

Section 2: Subcommittee Meetings

Subcommittee meetings shall be arranged at the discretion of the subcommittee chair/co-chairs.

Section 3: Public Information

PCS Meetings are open to all members of the University community. The dates, times, and locations of PCS meetings will be listed in advance on the PCS Website, along with meeting minutes, membership information, and other related materials.

Approved:

President James F. Barker, FAIA

Date