



OCAD U Sustainability Committee

Terms of Reference

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Office of Accountability: Diversity, Equity & Sustainability Initiatives

Administrative Responsibility: Director, Office of Diversity, Equity Sustainability Initiatives

Approver(s): Educational and Employment Equity Committee (EEEC)

Preamble

Universities have long been agents of change- catalysts for social and political action as well as centres of learning. Universities not only educate most of the world's leaders, decision-makers, and teachers and advance the boundaries of knowledge, but as major employers and consumers of goods and services they play a significant economic role nationally and globally.

Given the ascribed role of Universities in society, and the prevailing environmental and sustainability challenges, Universities are coming under increasing pressure to engage with and respond to climate change and other sustainable development issues and the associated risks and opportunities. They are expected to be the engines and innovation centres for sustainable development through teaching and learning, research and knowledge transfer.

Critically, Universities' educational role does not end with undergraduate and postgraduate learning, it extends to the plethora of activities which support and extend the teaching and research core: campus management and operations; campus planning and design; construction and renovation; purchasing; transport; and engagement with the wider community. Awareness is also growing in the higher education sector that universities can teach and demonstrate the theory and practice of sustainability through taking action to understand and reduce the unsustainable impacts of their own activities. Linkages of curricula and campus operations under the aegis of sustainability can create a powerful "shadow curriculum" which emphasises the nexus between theory and practice.

Greening Universities Toolkit: Transforming Universities
Into Green and Sustainable Campuses (2013)
United Nations Environment Programme

Statement of Committee

OCAD U has set a strategic priority of developing and implementing an institution-wide sustainability plan. The goal of the Sustainability Committee is to achieve widespread participation and to inform and advance the high-level organizational change strategies needed to continue a transition to a sustainable university. The Sustainability Committee will advance a vision of 'just sustainability' that foregrounds equity and creates new ways of understanding and acting that strengthen communities, build social capacity and economic strength, and promote positive transformation and change.

The Sustainability Committee is guided by the following Terms of Reference:

Name of Committee

The committee shall be known as the OCAD University Sustainability Committee reporting to the Educational and Employment Equity Committee (EEEEC).

Type of Sub-Committee

This is a sub-committee of the Education and Employment Equity Committee (EEEEC).

Mandate

The Sustainability Committee has the broad mandate (academic, operational and administrative) and the autonomy needed to support, promote and advance sustainability initiatives. The Committee recognizes that the core principles of ecological responsibility, social wellness, and financial wellbeing are essential in all aspects of university life, and as a responsible member of the municipal, provincial and national higher education community requires committed leadership, stewardship and community engagement at all levels.

The Committee will develop a Sustainability Policy for review and approval by the University Senate and Board of Governors. The Committee will also develop and oversee implementation of multi-year and annual sustainability plans, subject to Senate and Board of Governors approval, and work to ensure the availability of resources to implement institutional objectives, integration of those goals into other institutional plans; informing a framework for change; monitoring and evaluating progress, and advancing an institution-wide adoption that includes measurable outcomes that advance the core principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship. This Committee will advocate for communities that are life sustaining, be they educational, industrial, economic, social or otherwise, and will champion innovative solutions and divergent) thinking that advances sustainability.

Membership

The Sustainability Committee will be comprised of permanent voting members from the following OCAD University departments:

- Director, Office of Diversity, Equity & Sustainability Initiatives, (permanent)
- Sustainability Co-Chair from academic leadership, appointed by the EEEEC (two year term)
- Coordinator, Sustainability Initiatives, Office of Diversity, Equity & Sustainability Initiatives (permanent)
- Director or designate from operations (Infrastructure)
 - Facilities Planning & Management (permanent)

- Studio Management (permanent)
- IT Services (permanent)
- Academic Leadership or faculty who are experts in various aspects of sustainability and sustainability development
 - One (1) Faculty of Design (two year term)
 - One (1) Faculty of Art (two year term)
 - One (1) Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies (two year term)
 - One (1) Research & Graduate Studies (two year term)
- OCAD Student Union Campaigns or designate (one year term)
- OCAD Student Union Sustainability Representative or designate (one year term)
- One (1) or two (2) person(s) appointed by the committee to ensure expertise in various aspects of sustainability and sustainable development and/or to promote constituent engagement.

Meetings

The committee shall hold 4 meetings in a year – June 1st to May 31st.

Co-Chair

The Committee shall have two (2) Sustainability Committee Co-chairs. The Committee will recommend existing Committee members representing academic leadership to the Co-chair positions, and nominees will be appointed by the EEEEC for a two (2) year term.

Sustainability Committee Quorum

Quorum shall be 50% plus one (1) of permanent members present.

Administrative Support

Administrative support to the Sustainability Committee will be provided by the Office of Diversity, Equity & Sustainability Initiatives.