

# Bylaws - Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)

Bylaws update approved unanimously, 3/24/23 by JCES. Chair: Andrew Ericson, Vice-Chair: Grace Lopez Johnson

Activities and actions of this committee shall be guided by ideas expressed in the Sustainability Mission and Vision Statement included at the end of these Bylaws.

## A. Specific duties and responsibilities of the committee shall include:

1. Recommending actions that promote environmental sustainability including, but not limited to:
  - Implementing the Talloires Declaration
  - Creating an institutional culture of sustainability
  - Educating for environmentally responsible citizenship
  - Fostering environmental literacy
  - Collaborating with stakeholders and promoting interdisciplinary approaches
  - Enhancing capacity of primary and secondary schools
  - Broadening service locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
  - Greenhouse gas reducing initiatives
2. Promoting discussions regarding environmental sustainability among students and staff.
3. Evaluating proposals funded by the Environmental Sustainability Reserve (“Green Fund”).  
Prior to reviewing proposals, JCES will invite the UWL staff member who oversees the Green Fund account to briefly review the financial status of this account with the committee. For each proposal, JCES will use a two-step review process: The committee will first determine if the proposal meets the criteria for Green Fund proposals as established by the UWL Student Association. Proposals meeting these criteria will then be classified as highly recommended, recommended, or not recommended. All decisions made by JCES will be forwarded by the Green Fund coordinator to the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee (SUFAC) for further review.  
In addition to reviewing Green Fund proposals, JCES will also consider “mini-Green Fund proposals” submitted to the Green Fund. JCES has sole responsibility to approve or not approve mini-grant proposals, i.e., they are not submitted to SUFAC or elsewhere for additional consideration.
4. Recommending actions concerning environmental sustainability to the Chancellor and university community.

## B. Committee Membership and Appointments:

1. Members of the committee shall include the following:
  - a. Six students:
    - Two members selected by the Students for Sustainability.
    - Student Association Environmental Sustainability Director.
    - Two members selected by the Student Association.
    - Green Fund Coordinator(s).
    - Should one or more student vacancies develop, JCES may solicit new members as needed.
  - b. Five faculty or instructional academic staff (selected by the Faculty Senate).
  - c. Three non-instructional academic staff (selected by the Academic Staff Council).
  - d. Two University staff (selected by the University Staff Council).
  - e. Environmental Studies Program faculty or academic staff representative (selected by the Director of Environmental Studies).
  - f. Geography and Earth Science Program faculty or academic staff representative (selected by the Chair of Geography and Earth Science).
  - g. Division of Diversity & Inclusion representative (this position shall be filled by a staff member or student at the discretion of the Vice Chancellor of Diversity & Inclusion).
  - h. Residence Life representative (this position shall be filled by a staff member or student at

the discretion of the Director of Residence Life).

- h. Sustainability Coordinator or like position, if there is no staff member in this role then this committee membership should be filled by the staff member serving as the Green Fund Advisor.
  - i. Facilities Management representative (this position shall be filled by a staff member at the discretion of the Physical Plant Director).
2. Other faculty, staff or students with significant sustainability responsibilities (for example, an academic sustainability coordinator, may be formally invited to join the committee by the Chair or Co-Chairs of the committee.
  3. Faculty and staff shall serve 3-year terms. To promote committee continuity, it is recommended that faculty and staff appointments be staggered and that interested students be re-appointed so that they may serve more than one year.
  4. Robert's rules of Order will be followed. A quorum shall be a simple majority of committee members. A quorum is necessary to conduct a vote. A simple majority of those voting is necessary to pass a motion. Voting occurs with a voice vote or a hand vote and any member can call for a roll-call vote. Proxy votes provided by members who cannot be in attendance will be shared with the committee by the committee Chair or Co-Chairs, as advisory information. Should a vacancy develop, the number required by quorum shall be reduced until a suitable replaced is found.
  5. JCES members will appoint the following during the convening meeting: Chair and Vice-Chair or Co-Chairs, and Meeting Recorder.

#### C. Meeting time

Given the large number of committee members, JCES will meet every other Friday at 11:00 am. An established meeting time will enable students, staff, and faculty to adjust their schedules in advance of applying for committee membership. Other special meeting times may be established, for example, to review Green Fund proposals.

- D. Changes made to JCES bylaws will go into effect at the beginning of the next academic year.
- E. The most updated version of the JCES bylaws should be found at the following at <https://www.uwlax.edu/chancellor/joint-committees/joint-committee-on-environmental-sustainability/>.
- F. It shall be the duty of the Chair or Co-Chairs to create an annual report at the end of each academic year to track progressions in the committee. The annual reports shall be made available at the link listed above.
- G. The committee shall report directly to the Chancellor.

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## **UW-La Crosse Sustainability Mission Statement**

Prepared and approved by the UW-La Crosse Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability December 6, 2013. Also approved by the UWL Student Association (December 11, 2013), Academic Staff Council (December 10, 2013), and Faculty Senate (February 13, 2014).

### **Mission**

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse will provide students, faculty, staff and the community with the knowledge and skills to be environmentally responsible and involved citizens who understand and consider the global effects of their actions and the actions of others. The University will strive to use and implement sustainable best practices while minimizing its carbon footprint.

### **Vision**

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is a campus where:

- Education and research prepare students, faculty, staff and surrounding communities to engage in dialogue and positive action around sustainability.
- University leadership is committed to sustainability and will direct adequate resources toward the development of sustainability expertise and best practices on campus.
- Minimizing adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts of University operations is a priority.
- The understanding and concern for sustainability issues provide the foundation for dynamic campus collaboration and community for students, faculty and staff.