UCLA Campus Sustainability Committee Overview

UCSB Sustainability Conference
Chancellor’s Sustainability Committees Conference Session
June 26, 2006

1. Committee Name: UCLA Campus Sustainability Committee

2. When formed: 2005 and formally chartered in April 2006

3. Reports to: Chancellor’s office (Executive Vice Chancellor)

4. Frequency of meetings: Quarterly, or as needed; subcommittees meet monthly, or as needed

5. Membership composition: 18 + members
   2 undergraduates and 2 graduate students; 4 faculty; Assistant Chancellor; AVCs for General Services (Facilities, Parking and Transportation, and Environmental Health Services), Communications, and Capital Programs; Directors for Purchasing, Housing and Hospitality; Administrators from Student Affairs, Staff Assembly; Co-chaired by Director of the Institute for the Environment and Assistant Director Campus and Environmental Planning. Committee Staffed by Graduate Student.

6. Mission Statement: To promote sustainability in planning, development and operation of the campus environment and facilities as well as in the development of sustainability initiatives in education, research and community service activities.

7. Goals:
   • To engage the campus in an ongoing dialogue about sustainability;
   • To integrate sustainability with existing campus programs in education, research, operations, and community service;
   • To instill a culture of sustainable long-range planning and forward-thinking design.

8. Guiding Principles:
   • Environmental quality, economic health and social equity are mutually dependent.
   • UCLA has the ability and responsibility to assume a leadership role to advance education and research in sustainability.
   • Local actions can and do have global effects.
   • Every individual can effect change by becoming aware of the social, economic and ecological impacts of our personal decisions.
9. **Funding:** Seed money provided by Chancellor’s office to staff the Committee and fund attendance at conferences. Office space and administrative support provided by the IoE. A campus commitment to staff a new sustainability position was made in April 2006 and a CSC subcommittee is evaluating the appropriate scope and reporting structure for the position.

10. **Structure:** The CSC has just formed four working groups to look at best practices and develop recommendations aimed at supporting ongoing and new sustainability initiatives in the following broad areas:
   - Ways and Means (Sustainability Coordinator position; green fund formation, and related support issues)
   - Formal Education (New initiatives and ideas to further incorporate sustainability in teaching and research)
   - Informal Education (Community awareness, website, communications)
   - Operations (General Services, Capital Programs, Purchasing, Housing, Dining Services. Identify new initiatives and priorities)

11. **Activities/Events organized by the Committee:** A Campus Sustainability Website: [www.sustain.ucla.edu](http://www.sustain.ucla.edu) has been implemented to provide an interactive forum for exchanging information and increasing awareness. The website features a summary report reflecting all the ongoing sustainability activities in education, research and operations at UCLA and setting the stage for future endeavors. A copy of the CSC Charter is also available as well as opportunities for involvement.

12. **Accomplishments or achievements to date:** Committee is now formally chartered with Chancellor’s support to retain a full-time staff position; growth in representation and scope of the CSC by adding Purchasing, Housing, Staff Assembly and making meetings open to all interested individuals and groups. Working groups have been formulated.

13. **Future plans:** promote a decision to support preparation of a sustainability assessment and plan; develop and gain support for new initiatives to promote sustainability building on achievements to date.

14. **Academic Initiatives in Sustainability:** UCLA has now formally established an undergraduate program in Environmental Science awarding the Bachelor of Science degree, effective fall 2006. The undergraduate program is to be offered through the Institute of the Environment, in its capacity as a Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction, and is founded on a rigorous program of basic natural science courses reflecting collaboration of participating departments including: Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Earth and Space Sciences, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Geography, and Environmental Health Sciences. This new degree program will complement the Geography/Environmental Studies major offered by the Geography Department that emphasizes the social science aspects of environmental issues. Both programs provide opportunities for incorporating sustainability factors across the curricula.
In addition, the UCLA Anderson School is proposing a new emphasis for graduate students entitled “Leaders in Sustainability”. This emphasis will be open to all graduate students at UCLA with significant interest expressed from the Anderson School of Management, the School of Law, the School of Public Affairs, the School of Public Health, the Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science, Geography, Economics and others. The emphasis is aimed at graduate students who will become decision-makers in various types of organizations and who will have to address the three sides of sustainability (economic, environmental and social factors).