



COUNCIL OF COMMONWEALTH STUDENT GOVERNMENTS
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

312 HUB-Robeson Center, University Park, PA 16802
(814) 863-0697 - psuccsg.org

C.R. 20.21.05

Establishment of Sustainability Councils/Charters/Chairs for each
Commonwealth campus and academic college

Authors: *Matthew Long (CCSG Sustainability Co-Director), Gabriel Schaefer (CCSG Sustainability Co-Director),*

Sponsors: *Mitchel Ray (Behrend), Megan Close (Abington), Sidney Przyblyski (Greater Allegheny), Maaz Siddiqi (Lehigh Valley), Nicole Jimenez (Brandywine), Olivia Maikranz (Scranton), Samantha Kravits (New Kensington)*

Whereas, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments understands the role sustainability plays in the education of Penn State students. As defined by Penn State’s 2016 - 2025 Strategic Plan, sustainability is “the simultaneous pursuit of human health and happiness, environmental quality, and economic well-being for current and future generations”⁽¹⁾. As a student government organization that represents over 30,000 Penn State students, one of our goals is to encourage students to embrace this definition of sustainability so they may lead happy and healthy lives while both enrolled at Penn State and at any point in time following graduation;

Whereas, The Council of Student Governments recognizes one of the most effective means of introducing and educating students on the various aspects of sustainability is through the active integration of sustainability into existing curricula and academic programs;

Whereas, The Sustainability Institute has already been institutionalizing sustainability at Penn State through the establishment of Sustainability Councils/Charters/Chairs across the Commonwealth. This program, initiated by the Sustainability Institute, is designed to strategically advance the University’s sustainability goals, and align each respective academic unit with the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals;

Whereas, According to the Sustainability Institute, “Each Sustainability Council is headed by a Chair and composed of faculty, staff, students and stakeholders. Councils are seated by the Dean or Chancellor to provide leadership and ensure their college/campus is sustainable in all efforts, including research, teaching and operations⁽²⁾”. Charters are the foundational documents that set up these councils and determine the organizational structure, mission and rules of

each individual Council;

Whereas, These Councils/Charters/Chairs are continually institutionalizing sustainability into existing curricula across all disciplines and ensuring campuses and colleges are sustainable in their research projects and operations; however, there are many campuses and academic colleges that do not have Councils/Charters/Chairs formed as this point. The following campuses and colleges do not currently have a formally organized sustainability council supported by Penn State leadership with a established charter outlining its mission, vision and governing principles and procedures:

1. Campuses
 - 1.1. Abington
 - 1.2. Berks
 - 1.3. Brandywine
 - 1.4. DuBois
 - 1.5. Fayette
 - 1.6. Greater Allegheny
 - 1.7. Hazleton
 - 1.8. Lehigh Valley
 - 1.9. Mont Alto
 - 1.10. Schuylkill
 - 1.11. Scranton
 - 1.12. Shenango
 - 1.13. Wilkes-Barre
 - 1.14. York
2. Academic Colleges
 - 2.1. College of Agricultural Sciences
 - 2.2. Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications
 - 2.3. College of Education
 - 2.4. College of Informational Sciences and Technology;

Whereas, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments recognizes the academic colleges listed above are located and based out of the University Park campus; however, over 50 percent of Penn State undergraduate students who attend the University Park campus come from a Commonwealth campus and begin studying in their academic programs at a Commonwealth campus⁽³⁾. It is our responsibility that these Commonwealth-based students continue learning about sustainability throughout their entire tenure at Penn State;

Whereas, The creation of sustainability Councils/Charters/Chairs would offer students with more opportunities to learn how to live a sustainable life, and propel Penn State as a higher education institution that prioritizes sustainability in its education system.

Be it resolved, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments supports the Sustainability Institute's mission to establish Sustainability Councils/Charters/Chairs for each Commonwealth campus and academic college, each with its own respective Penn State website/online resources;

Be it further resolved, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments requests each Council outline in its charter that it must have at least one student representative as a member of the Council.

Respectfully,

Matthew Long

Matthew Long, Sustainability Co-Director

Gabriel Schaefer

Gabriel Schaefer, Sustainability Co-Director

Council Action Vote __: __: __ Pass: __ Fail: _____ Postponed: _

Presidential Action Approved: Veto: _____

Date: __/__/_____

¹ “The Pennsylvania State University’s Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2025.” The Pennsylvania State University, 2016.

² “Sustainability Councils, Chairs and Charters.” *Sustainability.psu.edu*, sustainability.vmhost.psu.edu/councilsandchairs.

³ “2 2 Plan.” *Undergraduate Admissions*, admissions.psu.edu/pennstate/2plus2plan/.