Operating Policy – MSU Sustainability Education Committee

1. Purpose
   1. To raise awareness of environmental issues;
   2. To help develop and implement MSU and University environmental policies;
   3. To represent undergraduate student interests on sustainability issues;
   4. To create educational campaigns and resources that foster a more environmentally aware and sustainable campus;
   5. To improve the continuity of environmental sustainability research and project-work within the MSU
2. Members
   1. The Committee will consist of:
      1. The Advocacy Coordinator;
      2. One (1) member of the Board of Directors;
      3. One (1) of either the Associate Vice-President (University Affairs) or the Advocacy & Policy Research Assistant;
      4. Two (2) SRA members;
      5. Two (2) non-SRA MSU members;
      6. One (1) representative from McMaster Outdoor Recreation (ex-officio);
      7. One (1) representative from the Academic Sustainability Programs Office (ex-officio);
      8. One (1) representative from Facility Services (ex-officio).
   2. The Committee Chair shall;
      1. Be elected from the voting members of the Committee;
      2. Be responsible for scheduling committee meetings, booking meeting rooms, assigning action items and distributing meeting minutes;
      3. Serve as the central contact person for the committee.
3. Objectives
   1. Consult with various MSU and McMaster bodies, including but not limited to:
      1. The Academic Sustainability Programs Office;
      2. McMaster Outdoor Recreation;
      3. Relevant clubs and services.
   2. Project Work:
      1. The committee shall establish actionable project goal(s) for the year that will advance environmental sustainability within the MSU;
      2. The details and progression of these projects shall be included in the presented and published year-end report.
   3. Conduct research to:
      1. Investigate new alternatives pertaining to environmental sustainability and network with other University Students Unions involved in campus sustainability efforts;
      2. Keep an updated database of community partnership contact information;
      3. Develop a year-end report to reflect the findings of the environmental audit, and suggest recommendations to the SRA for the following year;
      4. Present the results of compiled research and recommendations to the SRA and publish the report in an accessible format, through available communicative channels including campus media;
   4. Engage in lobbying efforts to:
      1. Participate in, and support, efforts to implement the University’s environmental policies;
         1. A minimum of one (1) member from the MSU Sustainability Education Committee will sit on the University’s Sustainability Committee each year.
      2. Communicate concerns about current environmental issues on campus to the University Administration;
      3. Maintain and strengthen relations with the City of Hamilton to continue cooperative programs in the environmental interest of the MSU;
      4. Disseminate information on collaborative initiatives between the MSU, the City of Hamilton, and community organizations.
4. Operating Parameters
   1. One (1) member of the Board of Directors shall organize and call the first meeting;
   2. The committee will elect a chair at the first meeting;
   3. The elected chair will organize and call all meetings following the first meeting;
   4. The committee shall hold at least one (1) meeting per month;
   5. The committee shall either:
      1. Host at least one (1) environmentally oriented campaign or educational event;
      2. Publish at least one (1) environmentally oriented resource per academic term.
   6. Partnership with faculty and researchers, e.g. School of Geography & Earth Science, is strongly encouraged in order to be research and evidence-based;
   7. Success and outcomes will be measured in the context of seeking short-term and long-term solutions to the significance of environmentalism and sustainability on campus.