

GROUP Objective: Education and Research

Rev. 11.1.10 v4

Purpose: To infuse sustainability into the research and curriculum of the entire NMSU system. The Education and Research Committee will be structured into two subgroups, who will meet separately and together to accomplish the following three goals.

Goal 1: By 2011-2012, sustainability-related topics will be incorporated in 35% of NMSU main campus and community college course offerings.

Action Steps

1. Work with Faculty Senate to recruit representatives from each college on main campus and each community college to be members of the “Education Curriculum” subgroup of the Education and Research Committee of the Sustainability Council.
2. Update the inventory of sustainability-related courses, sustainability-focused and sustainability-related courses by department and college on main campus and in community colleges of NMSU by May 2011. This inventory should take the form of a relational database and should identify for each class, the sustainability content embedded in the class as well as instructor name and contact information, class name and prefix, semesters taught, prerequisites, sustainability topics covered, whether service learning components are included, and any other relevant information that will enhance student enrollment in sustainability-related classes. All faculty should be asked to update this database every year. The database should be accessible online for students to lookup sustainability classes.
3. Ask each of the courses with sustainability-topics to include sustainability learning outcomes in the course syllabi by September 2012.
4. Do a feasibility study of undergrad and graduate programs to assess the costs of creating sustainability immersion experiences, by November 2012.
5. Conduct a sustainability literacy assessment of NMSU campus faculty, students, staff, and administrators by November 2012.
6. Work with the administration and grants staff from the various colleges on main campus, and the community colleges to identify incentives and resources for developing additional sustainability courses by December 2012 for courses to begin in 2013.
7. Develop a feasibility study of student sustainability educators program, outreach campaign, new student orientation, sustainability materials and publications, and co-curricular education by December 2012 (see co-curricular education section of S.T.A.R.S.)
8. Identify options for collaboration between faculty and campus operations personnel so that students can participate in the greening of campus operations and maintenance as an educational and/or research experience by December 2012.
9. Include results of steps 2-7 in the S.T.A.R.S. Category 1: Education and Research reporting.

Goal 2: Find out what students, faculty, department heads, and deans want in terms of sustainability majors, minors, emphasis, certifications, new classes, and/or inter-disciplinary majors and minors.

Action Steps

1. The "Education Curriculum" subgroup will meet every other month to work on this goal.
2. A web survey will be designed and conducted to collect information about the options specified in this goal, and a report created by April 2011.
3. The subgroup members will attend their college's convocation or other forum meetings to present and discuss the options by September 2012.
4. Based on steps 1 and 2, the subgroup will make recommendations to the Sustainability Council and Office of Sustainability by October 2012.
5. If there is agreement, an implementation strategy plan will be recommended by Office of Sustainability to the President and Provost by December 2012.

Goal 3: Build the resource base for sustainability-research.

Action Steps

1. Work with the President, Provost, and VP of Research to appoint six sustainability-research faculty from main campus, and one from each community college to serve on the "Sustainability Research" subgroup of Education and Research Committee of the Sustainability Council by January 2011.
2. Meet with the President, Provost, and VP of Research to identify candidates for the subgroup by March 2011 from a compilation of all faculty involved in sustainability research.
3. Identify the current grants and research initiatives at NMSU that are sustainability-related by May 2011.
4. Meet with representatives of all departments involved in sustainability research by February 2012.
5. Meet with Research Council of NMSU and VP of Research, the chair of University Tenure and Promotion Committee, Dean of the Graduate School, and Provost to discuss potential role of interdisciplinary research in tenure and promotion at NMSU, by April 2012.
6. Identify seed money funding streams to jumpstart new sustainability research initiatives on campus.