

**Proposition 09-08/09 Amended**

**Date Submitted:** 1/13/09

**Proposed Committee Assignment:**  
**Assigned Committee:** University Affairs 1/22/09

**Title: Memorial in Support of the NMSU Year of Sustainability (Brown, Rayson, A & S; Rosencrans, ACES; Huttlinger, Schultz, CHSS; Kelly, Engineering; and Torres, ACES)**

**Whereas**, Interim President Cruzado announced at the 2009 Spring Convocation that NMSU would designate 2009 as the Year of Sustainability, and

**Whereas**, serious issues regarding the use of our natural resource base to meet society's demands for energy, infrastructure, and material goods have become very evident, and

**Whereas**, these issues raise serious questions concerning the sustainability of the economies and quality of life of people that live in the developed and developing world, and

**Whereas**, as a major land grant university in the U.S., NMSU has much to offer to the debate concerning resource uses and sustainability through its collective mission of teaching, outreach, research, and service,

**Therefore**, the NMSU Faculty Senate supports the recent initiative announced by Interim President Waded Cruzado that NMSU declares 2009 to be the Year of Sustainability. We believe that principles of sustainability should guide the leadership, staff, faculty and students in the manner by which we engage in the activities central to the mission of the University, as noted in the Interim President's memo of 13 January in which this initiative is advanced.

Specifically, we support the following efforts:

- The work of the Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force in its efforts to reduce energy use at NMSU and the carbon footprint of University activities,
- Faculty are encouraged to address issues of sustainability in courses that lend themselves to these issues, Faculty, staff, and members of the administration are encouraged to work to actively engage students in activities and discussions related to sustainability,
- Leadership and faculty engaged in research at NMSU are encouraged work to develop joint and collaborative efforts to further advance research into sustainability and to more broadly and effectively disseminate the results of such research, and
- All members of the campus community are encouraged to work both collectively and individually to live in a more sustainable manner.

## **Background**

Over the last several years, we have seen an increasing awareness of our finite natural resource base and the emerging realities of global and regional climate change associated with increasing uses of fossil fuels to provide energy and material goods for society's needs. In particular, the last year has seen major swings in energy prices that reflect the finite nature of these resources, with considerable impacts on regional economies and the quality of life of people in both the developing and developed world.

As these realities have unfolded, faculty, staff, and leadership at NMSU have acknowledged the nature of the attendant challenges and the potential role that NMSU may and should play in the ensuing debate about how to meet these challenges. Over the last few years, the Sustainability & Climate Change Task Force has met and done much good work, with many positive and concrete ideas to come from this work. At the 13 January 2009 Spring Convocation ceremony, Interim President Cruzado announced that NMSU would designate 2009 as the Year of Sustainability and provided some specific ideas that the University could undertake to advance sustainability. The Faculty Senate believes this effort is very positive and expresses our formal support of this new initiative in this memorial.