

**Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Memorandum of Action**

MOA – 25/05

Name of Council/Committee:

Campus Planning and Finance Council


Approval Date:

18 March 2025

Implementation Date:

Upon Administrative Approval

RECOMMENDATION:


[LuMarie Guth \(May 2, 2025 14:05 EDT\)](#)

May 2, 2025

LuMarie Guth, Chair, Campus Planning and Finance Council

Date

☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Other Action

Comments:



May 4, 2025

Amy Naugle,

WMU Faculty Senate President

Date

☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Other Action

Comments:



May 6, 2025

Christopher Cheatham, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date

☒ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Other Action

Comments:



May 9, 2025

Edward Montgomery,

WMU President

Date

**Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Memorandum of Action**

MOA – 25/05

**Establishment of a Standing Sustainability Committee within the Campus
Planning and Finance Council (CPFC)**

RECOMMENDATION

The Campus Planning and Finance Council (CPFC) recommends the establishment of a standing Sustainability Committee within the CPFC to enhance the Council's capacity to address sustainability issues in campus planning and decision-making.

RATIONALE/PURPOSE

Campus sustainability and climate action are central to WMU's strategic plan and are embedded in the university's academic curriculum and research programs, as well as infrastructure management and development across campus. The CPFC, which oversees critical areas such as construction, transportation, energy infrastructure, and land use management, currently lacks the capacity to thoughtfully evaluate sustainability within its roles. Multiple formal roles assigned to the CPFC necessitate this review and input ([Roles 1, 2, and 4](#)). The formation of a Sustainability Committee will provide the CPFC with content-specific expertise, facilitate better communication and oversight of sustainability initiatives, and ensure that sustainability objectives are integrated into campus planning and decision-making processes.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S) AND ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL(S):

The Campus Planning and Finance Council (CPFC) will support the Sustainability Committee, providing guidance to foster impactful initiatives. The CPFC Chair will serve as the key facilitator, ensuring alignment with the Council's strategic vision, encouraging innovation, and sharing progress with the Faculty Senate to drive meaningful sustainability efforts across campus. Additionally, the committee will elect one of its board-appointed faculty members to serve in a leadership role (e.g. chair), further strengthening collaboration and partnerships across campus groups.

STAKEHOLDERS

- Faculty: Faculty members with expertise in sustainability and campus planning will be directly involved in the committee's work.
- Students: Student representatives, for instance from the Western Student Association (WSA), Graduate Student Association (GSA), Students for a Sustainable Earth, or similar, will participate in the committee.
- Staff: Staff members from relevant offices, such as the Office for Sustainability and Facilities Management, will contribute their expertise.
- Administration: WMU administrators (President's Cabinet, Deans, Chairs, and similar) will benefit from the committee's recommendations and guidance on sustainability-related planning decisions.

HISTORY:

- a) Effective date of current version: spring 2025
 - b) Date first adopted: fall 2025
 - c) Revision history: N/A
 - d) Proposed date of next review: spring 2028
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ACTION ITEM

The Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council proposes establishing a standing Sustainability Committee within the Campus Planning and Finance Council (CPFC) to enhance sustainability efforts and communication within WMU's Faculty Senate. This committee will provide expertise on campus infrastructure, transportation, and sustainability assessment, advising CPFC on planning metrics and the impact of initiatives. The new committee will report to CPFC as needed and serve as a resource for sustainability-related decision-making.

REFERENCES

The establishment of a Sustainability Committee within the Campus Planning and Finance Council (CPFC) aligns with **WMU's Office for Sustainability Goals**, which emphasize climate leadership, sustainable infrastructure, and responsible resource use ([WMU Sustainability Goals](#)). Additionally, it supports the **WMU Strategic Plan 2022-2032**, which prioritizes environmental sustainability and institutional effectiveness ([WMU Strategic Plan](#)).

FAQs

Q: Will the Sustainability Committee add to the CPFC's workload?

A: No, the committee will enhance the CPFC's capacity by providing specialized expertise and reducing the need for individual Council members to address sustainability issues independently.

Q: Will the CPFC's formal role to *review major plans for the University's physical facilities, including on- and off-campus facilities, transportation and infrastructure, and how they impact safety, security, aesthetics, finances and the surrounding environment*—via a Sustainability Committee slow or deter planning processes that continue throughout the calendar year?

A: No, a Sustainability Committee will enhance adherence to this role without disrupting the calendar-year planning process. The committee will integrate into the existing advisory framework. It will have engaged members with specialized expertise available year-round. If availability is limited at any time, the committee recognizes that planning processes will proceed as scheduled. Ultimately, the committee aligns with the Council's charge to review and advise on major campus plans while ensuring sustainability remains a key consideration.