

Sustainability Committee

Minutes of 8 October 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Sustainability Committee was called to order at 10 a.m. on 8 October 2025, via Webex by Steve Bertman, chair.

Members Present: Mia Breznau, Steve Bertman, Lynne Heasley, Valerian Kwigizile, Mitchell Luttermoser, Kate Martini, Timothy Palmer, Jeff Spoelstra, Sara VanderVeen,

Advisory Member: Stephen Root

Ex Officio: LuMarie Guth

Quorum

A quorum was present with 10 members in attendance of the seven needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Palmer, seconded by Spoelstra, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from 24 September 2025 will be circulated and approved at the next meeting.

Elections

[MOTION] It was moved by Bertman, seconded by Martini, to elect Heasley as Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held to have the Faculty Senate correct its committee category for Steve Root, changing this from advisory to full member. This is in line with the committee makeup as specified by the Faculty Senate in establishing the Sustainability Committee.

A discussion was held regarding posting changes on the website. Mapping out sustainability focal points or location “loci” (Exp: linked to sustainable living) throughout campus, and facilitating better communication channels. Specifically, ways to contribute positively to project planning processes at different levels on campus. Filling information and communication gaps by establishing metrics of sustainability success or useful sustainability guidelines. Importance of culture and culture change. The need for sustainability frameworks that constituencies can believe in, University Pride. Vitality and effectiveness that will come from cross-campus participation in the work of the committee (e.g., Academic Affairs, Facilities, and University Affairs). Clarification of clients, decision-makers, stakeholders, etc. in campus planning and projects.

[MOTION] It was moved by Bertman, seconded by Spoelstra, to present drafted charges as identified below to the Campus Planning and Finance Council for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

- Identify and map sustainability stakeholders on campus, and establish communication networks for collaboration and information sharing to support campus projects.
- Develop sustainability metrics related to the objectives in the University Strategic Plan and Master Plan; recommend sustainability guidelines and review applicable policies.
- Provide a framework that campus agencies may use as benchmarks in making sustainable planning decisions related to infrastructure, construction, transportation, and land and water management projects.
- Collaborate with project managers and clients to consider sustainability goals during planning for major capital projects, including renovations or new construction, transportation, and infrastructure. Areas of input may include carbon emissions, biodiversity, land and water management, aesthetics, and student quality of life/well-being.

- Conduct special studies at the request of the Faculty Senate/Campus Planning and Finance Council.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Palmer, seconded by Spoelstra, to adjourn the meeting at 11 a.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Sustainability Committee will meet next on 3 November 2025 at 11 a.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Lynne Heasley, Secretary

The Sustainability Committee did not approve the 8 October meeting minutes.

DRAFT