
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of 11 February 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Campus Planning and Finance Council Sustainability Committee was called to order at 10 a.m. on 11 February 2026, by Jeff Spoelstra, acting chair.

Members in Attendance: Mia Breznau, Lynne Heasley, Valerian Kwizile, Mitchell Luttermoser, Kate Martini, Jeff Spoelstra

Members Absent: Steve Bertman, LuMarie Guth, Timothy Palmer, Sara VanderVeen

Advisory Members in Attendance: Steve Root

Quorum

A quorum was present with six members in attendance of the six needed for a quorum.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Heasley, seconded by Martini, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of quorum at the 14 January 2026 meeting, minutes were not recorded.

Officer Reports

Due to Chair Bertman's absence, no report was provided.

Due to Ex Officio Guth's absence, no report was provided.

Unfinished Business

The committee reported continued progress on Charge 1 to identify and map stakeholders.

- Documentation of sustainability hubs across campus is nearing completion through the development of organizational flowcharts.
- Initial charts identify unit-level sustainability commitments and serve as the foundation for examining relationships among hubs and across institutional silos.
- Large-format flowcharts representing current work were printed and posted in the Office for Sustainability to allow committee review, annotation, and refinement. Members used the charts to identify additions, revisions, and preliminary observations regarding campus sustainability activities.
- Focused on how to maximize the value of the collected information for the Campus Planning and Finance Council, Faculty Senate, and broader campus community.
- Potential approaches include interactive visualizations, presentation formats, and relational database structures.
- Microsoft Power Business Intelligence and Gephi will be explored for data visualization and network analysis.
- Consideration was given to engaging a short-term professional with expertise in complex data visualization to translate the information into a usable and maintainable format. Such a tool would allow users to select a topic or administrative unit and view related sustainability initiatives, practices, and personnel across connected units.
- Proposed outcome is an interactive visualization of sustainability initiatives across the University.
- Next steps include mapping relationships among units using color-coded indicators for weak, moderate, strong, and aspirational connections, along with brief descriptors.
- Committee members may continue this work independently in the Office for Sustainability before the next meeting.
- Completion of this stage will represent the first full draft of the mapping project.

New Business

None.

Announcements

It was announced that the Board of Trustees voted at its regular meeting on the transfer of the Asylum Lake Preserve to Kalamazoo County. An Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council meeting is scheduled for later today.

Adjournment

Acting chair Spoelstra adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The Sustainability Committee will meet next on 18 March.

Approval

Submitted by Lynne Heasley, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 18 March 2026.