

Faculty Senate Sustainability Committee
Annual Report for the 2025–2026 Academic Year

Committee Charge

The Faculty Senate Sustainability Committee advises the Faculty Senate on sustainability-related issues within its governance purview, with particular attention to academic, curricular, faculty-led, and student-engagement dimensions of sustainability. The committee coordinates with Sustainable Campus FSU and other campus partners while avoiding duplication of operational responsibilities that reside outside Faculty Senate governance.

Context for the 2025–2026 Academic Year

Due to leadership transitions and faculty departures, no annual report was submitted for the 2024–2025 academic year. As a result, the 2025–2026 year focused in part on re-establishing continuity, consolidating committee records, clarifying committee scope and ownership of prior initiatives, and laying groundwork for future committee work.

At the start of the year, prior chairs were no longer available, and there was no centralized repository of committee records. Early efforts therefore emphasized documentation, coordination, and role clarification before pursuing new committee initiatives.

Committee Membership (2025–2026)

Co-Chairs

- Malathy Elumalai, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (NHMFL)
- Sunny Narayanan, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

Committee Members

- Eric Coleman, Professor, Political Science, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy
- Will Hanley, Associate Professor, History, College of Arts and Sciences
- James Parker-Flynn, College of Law
- Eundeok Kim, Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship
- Sarah Lester, Associate Professor, Biological Science, College of Arts and Sciences
- Emily Powell, Assistant State Climatologist, Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies (COAPS)

- Meghan Mick, Interior Design, College of Fine Arts
- Ian Macdonald, Professor, Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science

Ex Officio Member

- Elizabeth Swiman, Director of Sustainable Campus, Facilities Administration Services

Student Representative

- Ella Windlan, Human Development and Family Sciences

Meetings Held

- October 16, 2025
- November 17, 2025
- January 21, 2026
- February 23, 2026
- April 20, 2026

Meetings were conducted in hybrid formats. Attendance varied across meetings, reflecting broader participation challenges following leadership transitions.

Major Activities and Committee Work

Rebuilding Continuity and Institutional Memory

A major focus of the year was restoring continuity after the absence of leadership transition materials. Committee leadership:

- Consolidated prior committee documents, reports, and materials into a centralized shared google drive repository.
- Reviewed and documented the status of major past initiatives (committee-led, Sustainable Campus-led, and institutional)
- Prepared a structured briefing (“Past Initiatives & What’s Next”) to clarify ownership, viability, and governance boundaries for future committee work

This work established a foundation for informed decision-making and continuity going forward.

Sustainability Curriculum Visibility and Course Designation

The committee re-engaged sustainability curriculum visibility as a core Faculty Senate governance issue, building on infrastructure previously implemented by Sustainable Campus and the Registrar.

Key activities included:

- Reviewing the sustainability course designation process and clarifying its role as a **discovery and tracking tool**, not as a major, minor, or certificate.
- Coordinating with Sustainable Campus staff to understand existing workflows, data sources, and review processes.
- Organizing sustainability-tagged course lists by college and department to support faculty-led interpretation.
- Emphasizing a **light-touch, descriptive, faculty-driven review** rather than evaluative or unilateral changes.

Faculty-Led Course Review: Qualtrics and Shared Course List

During Spring 2026, the committee initiated an active, faculty-led review of sustainability-tagged courses to support internal catalog accuracy and curriculum tracking.

This process includes:

- A **shared, real-time Excel spreadsheet** of sustainability-tagged courses organized by college and department:
- A **Qualtrics Course Reflection Worksheet**, completed once per course reviewed.

Committee members are asked to review approximately 5–10 courses within their disciplinary areas and to indicate:

- Whether the course is still being offered
- Whether sustainability tagging remains appropriate
- Whether courses should be flagged as no longer taught or if additional courses may be missing

Notes and interpretations are documented through Qualtrics responses and comments in the shared Excel sheet. This work is ongoing at the time of this report and represents the committee's primary active task for Spring 2026.

Work in Progress and Next Steps

At the close of the 2025–2026 academic year, the committee's work in progress includes completion of the faculty-led sustainability course review, synthesis of themes emerging from the Qualtrics responses, and committee discussion of whether and how to follow up on identified gaps, clarifications, or opportunities. Based on these outcomes, the committee will document recommendations to inform focus areas for the coming year.

Looking ahead, the committee plans to:

- Maintain shared documentation for continuity.
- Concentrate on faculty-governed curriculum visibility work.
- Define clear, achievable annual committee deliverables.

Committee Member Reappointments

At this time, the committee has no specific recommendations for reappointments.