S10-5, Policy Recommendation, Creation of a University Sustainability Board

Legislative History:

At its meeting of May 3, 2010, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senator Heiden for the Organization and Government Committee.

Action by University President: Approved by President Jon Whitmore

Date: May 12, 2010

Policy Recommendation
Creation of a University Sustainability Board

Resolved: that the attached policy be implemented
Approved: 9-0-0 (April 13, 2010)
Absent: Andrew Fleck

Financial Impact:
This policy does not have any direct financial impact.

Workload:
This policy will increase workload of Board members.

Rationale:
As evidenced by the 2009 President’s Fall Address and his signing of the Talloires Declaration in August 2009, sustainability is one of the top four focus areas for the University, alongside diversity, information technology, and student retention and graduation. However, no permanent strategic University-wide structure currently exists for integrating sustainability into curriculum, research, facilities development and operations, procurement, and relations with the external community. While individual units address sustainability, overall management of sustainability on campus is not organized or well publicized at the University level.

University Sustainability Board

Working in conjunction with the University Director of Sustainability, the Board functions as a Special Agency of the Academic Senate and advises and makes recommendations to the Academic Senate
and the President in the following areas: setting and measuring progress towards meeting University-wide goals to promote sustainability across academic and non-academic divisions; and benchmarking SJSU sustainability efforts relative to state and national leaders in university sustainability. The Board serves as an advisory resource to academic departments on sustainability-related curriculum. The Board also works with appropriate units in the university as a resource for centralizing and effectively communicating information on SJSU’s sustainability efforts, both internally and externally; integrating sustainability into key planning documents and procedures; and educating and engaging with campus stakeholders and external partners on sustainability through research, projects, workshops, and other events.

Membership:

Ex Officio: University Director of Sustainability; Provost or Designee; VP University Advancement or Designee; VP Student Affairs or Designee; AVP FD&O; Executive Director Spartan Shops or designee; Associated Students Director of Community and Environmental Affairs

1. Deans: One college dean recommended by the Council of Deans and appointed by the President in consultation with the Provost. Deans will serve two-year terms.
2. Faculty: One faculty member from each representative unit of the Senate. Faculty members of the Board shall be recommended by the Academic Senate Executive Committee and appointed by the Academic Senate.
3. Students: One student appointed by the VP of Student Affairs from the membership of officially recognized student organizations focused on sustainability. Students will serve one-year terms.
4. Staff: One member of the staff appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee.

All appointed Faculty and Staff members will serve for staggered three year terms. The Chair of the Board will be elected by the membership at the last meeting of each Spring semester and will serve a one-year term.

Vacancies in appointive seats shall be filled for the balance of the term in the manner prescribed for the original appointments. Where Board recommendations to the President involve matters of serious concern to the campus community, the President will normally consult with appropriate Academic Senate committees before implementation.