

President's Commission on Environmental Sustainability

Terms of Reference

1. Mission and Function:

The President's Commission on Environmental Sustainability (PCES) shall work to enable Dickinson College to become a leader for sustainability in higher education through transformative innovations in our curriculum, co-curricular programs, student life, campus culture, campus operations, and interactions with communities beyond the campus.

The Commission shall achieve this mission by guiding at a strategic level all aspects of Dickinson's efforts in the area of sustainability, monitoring progress and advising the President and other bodies as appropriate. The Commission shall help guide the development and implementation of a strategic vision for sustainability at Dickinson, identify priority actions needed to advance the vision, promote engagement of all spheres of the college, provide a forum to share information across divisions, coordinate cross-divisional efforts, oversee implementation of Dickinson's Climate Action Plan, and monitor and evaluate progress toward sustainability goals.

The commission shall meet at least four times each academic year (early fall, late fall, early spring, and late spring) to (a) hear updates on sustainability efforts from the divisions and organizations of the College, (b) provide a forum for discussion of any issues of coordination among divisions and organizations, (c) discuss potential new initiatives in the area of environmental sustainability, and (d) develop and agree on recommendations.

The Commission shall report to and make recommendations to the President for advancing the mission of enabling Dickinson to become a national leader for sustainability in higher education. The Commission also may make recommendations to other bodies of the college. The Commission may, as needed, establish temporary task groups to explore problems, develop options, and propose solutions. Task groups of the Commission may, and typically would, include members who are not members of the Commission.

2. Membership of the Commission:

Members of the Commission shall include:

- Director of the Center for Sustainability Education, who will chair the Commission
- Provost and Dean of the College
- Vice President for Finance and Administration

- Vice President for Student Development
- Vice President for Enrollment and Communications
- Associate Vice President for Campus Operations
- Three members of the faculty, including one from each academic division
- A member of the President's Support Staff Forum
- A member of the President's staff
- Three students, one each from sophomore, junior and senior classes
- Two alumni, one recent graduate and one at large

The student, faculty, staff and alumni members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President. Student members will serve one-year terms; faculty, staff and alumni will serve two-year terms. Applications will be invited in spring semester and terms will begin in fall semester.¹ Applications will be reviewed by current members of the Commission and recommendations forwarded to the President for consideration and action.

Should there be insufficient applications for any position on the Commission, the Commission may recommend and the President may appoint a person with appropriate qualifications to serve on the Commission.

Should a position on the Commission become vacant prior to the end of a term, the Commission may, at its discretion, recommend a replacement to the President to fill the remainder of the term, or invite new applications. If new applications are not invited, preference would generally be given to individuals who had applied the previous spring, but the Commission may recommend other individuals with appropriate qualifications and interest.

3. Qualifications of Members

The qualifications sought in members of the Commission to be appointed by the president are:

- Demonstrated interest in sustainability.
- Commitment to improving the College.
- Willingness and ability to engage members of the Dickinson community to raise awareness of and promote the mission and work of the Commission.
- Experience with sustainability initiatives of the college in teaching, co-curricular programs, student life, campus culture, campus operations, college governance, or the wider community.

¹ Faculty, staff and alumni who are serving as members of the Commission in spring 2012 are requested to continue as members for academic year 2012-2013 and are welcome to apply in spring 2013 should they wish to serve another two-year term.

4. Responsibilities of Members

Responsibilities of all members of the Commission are to support the mission and work of the Commission by:

- Representing the general interests and perspectives of constituencies that are relevant to each member, as well as the Dickinson community as a whole;
- Actively liaising between PCES and relevant constituencies, including bodies of those constituencies (e.g. the Student Senate, the President's Support Staff Forum, the Alumni Council, senior officers of the college, and all-college committees);
- Attending PCES meetings regularly and preparing as necessary;
- Contributing personal insight and knowledge to the deliberations of PCES;
- Balancing short-term and long-term perspectives and goals; and
- Taking initiative in bringing projects and recommendations to PCES (or others) as appropriate.