

**Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Committee (EASC)
Sub-Committee (Sustainability in Education) Meeting
Meeting Minutes: July 12, 2012 (1:30-2:45pm)
Location: MU Sustainability Office**

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: Jason Hubbard, Dan Cohen, Troy Rule, Chelsea Kaplan, Steve Burdic

Guests: John Spencer, Director, Office of Assessment, and LuAnne Roth, Education Coordinator for Mizzou Advantage.

John Spencer was invited to address the subcommittee on the topic of learning outcomes which is a component of the STARS report. STARS is looking for aggregated information on the number of people graduating with majors, minors and certificates that have competencies measured against learning outcome objectives in sustainability topics. While there may be some aspects of this type of curriculum at MU it will take extensive investigation to capture how the curriculum is captured at the department level. The subcommittee appreciates Mr. Spencer's input and willingness to follow up with additional information as it is developed.

The subcommittee then considered the definition of *sustainability in the curriculum* that has been developed by members over the course of the summer. With several changes agreed to by the group, the final definition is as follows:

The University of Missouri Sustainability Policy directs actions that incorporate sustainability and social responsibility in teaching curriculum and research. Sustainability was defined by the United Nations Brundtland Commission in the 1987 report, *Our Common Future*, as follows:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

These needs are dependent upon the balance of ecological, social, and economic systems. This framework divides sustainability into three interrelated aspects:

1. Ecological Sustainability: Interactions of Earth's physical and biological processes, including the relationship and interaction of humans and ecosystems.
2. Economic Sustainability: Systems of production and consumption, and economic viability.
3. Social Sustainability: Processes and institutions, governance, values, ethics, and enhancement of human well-being.

Sustainability is achieved when human activities consider social equity, political stability, and economic development while balancing the capacity of ecosystems to absorb disturbance without diminishing ecosystem structure, function, and viability.

University of Missouri
Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Committee

Sustainability Focused Courses are courses that concentrate primarily on one or more of the three interrelated aspects of sustainability described above.

Sustainability Related Courses are courses that devote a significant amount of coverage to one or more of the three interrelated aspects of sustainability described above.

Sustainability Related Research is research having a substantial emphasis on one or more of the three aspects of sustainability described above.

Additionally, the subcommittee accepted a list of 851 courses at MU that show evidence of sustainability related and focused content. These courses resulted from a search of 7,848 courses offered by MU using the definition defined above. Subcommittee members had previously made recommendations for inclusion on the list. Duplicate courses in different departments were not included in the list. The list (attached .xlsx file) is included with this report. Of the 851 sustainability related and focused courses, 96 included a research focus. This list is also included in the accompanying file.

It was the unanimous decision of the subcommittee to send a report of the July 12, 2012 meeting results to Gary Ward, Associate Vice Chancellor of Campus Facilities who is interested in the outcome of these deliberations as manager of the STARS reporting process. With the approval of the report findings by Mr. Ward, the committee recommends that it be included in the STARS report.

The subcommittee recognizes that this is an inclusive process. This project has been a pioneering effort to discover sustainability information in the curriculum and research at the University of Missouri. The subcommittee invites comments and input on both the definition and course listings. The subcommittee will report findings to the Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Committee, Sustain Mizzou and MU Provost Brian Foster in an effort to discover additional information about these topics and to consolidate the information by seeking broad approval in an effort to inform current and prospective students about the sustainability curriculum at the University of Missouri.

A recent poll by the Princeton Review of entering freshmen discovered that nearly 70% considered the environmental record and emphasis on sustainability to be a major factor in their decision to attend their chosen college or university. The subcommittee recommends that an informational seminar or other informative methods be organized in conjunction with the campus Sustainability Office and other interested groups that can bring about a process to find consensus on sustainability in the MU curriculum and research efforts. The subcommittee further recommends that this information become available on web sites, and social media outlets to begin the discussion about finalizing this information for wider dissemination.