

## Proposed Abolishment of the Standing Sustainability Committee

### Existing Bylaw

#### 180. Sustainability Committee

- ~~A. Membership: This committee shall consist of at least 9 members, including at least:~~
- ~~1. One representative from each school.~~
  - ~~2. Ex-Officio The UCSF Sustainability Manager.~~
- ~~B. Duties~~
- ~~1. The chair or designate shall represent UCSF faculty in UC Systemwide sustainability issues.~~
  - ~~2. Set goals, make and implement recommendations to reduce the environmental impact of UCSF, include sustainability in the curriculum, and increase awareness of the importance of sustainability at UCSF, focusing on activities under the purview of faculty.~~
  - ~~3. Report annually to the Division on progress of UCSF toward achieving sustainability goals.~~
  - ~~4. The chair or designate shall represent the Academic Senate on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability.~~
  - ~~5. Select the faculty recipient of the annual Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability Award.~~
  - ~~6. To consider and report upon such matters as may be referred to it by the President of the University, the Chancellor, the Division, any Faculty Council, or other committee of the Division. [En 01 Sep 13]~~

### Proposed Bylaw

#### 180. Sustainability Committee **(ABOLISHED 2016)**

### Justification

In December 2007, then-Division Chair David Gardner created a Sustainability Task Force to identify faculty-relevant issues and infrastructure operational issues at UCSF that have a significant environmental impact. In January 2009, the Academic Senate submitted to Chancellor Bishop the Task Force's recommendations for improving environmental sustainability at UCSF. At that time, the Academic Senate felt that continued faculty efforts were needed to help implement sustainability recommendations and to identify opportunities for faculty to enhance sustainability at UCSF, which culminated into a standing Committee on Sustainability (COS) in 2013.

Three years later, UCSF has its own Sustainability Office, which owes its existence to one of the recommendations from the initial Sustainability Task Force. While the COS has successfully facilitated the Green Challenge, the Climate Champion award, and the Curriculum Workshop and Networking Event, it has failed to develop its own faculty-led initiatives. Indeed, many initiatives that the COS could be engaged with have instead been taken over by UCSF's Sustainability Office. There has also been a general failure to facilitate shared governance in the area of sustainability by the COS. To cite one example, even though the Sustainability Office produces an annual report to the Administration on UCSF's sustainability efforts, to date the COS has had no input into this report. Even more concerning is the apparent lack of interest in serving on the COS by faculty members, as COS meetings are only sparsely attended by appointed members. Indeed, over the past couple of years, the Committee on Committees (CoC) has struggled to not only find regular members to serve on the COS, but also Chairs and even Vice Chairs. One long-standing issue is the committee's initial 'activist' nature, which advocated for certain fossil fuel divestments. However, these members have since rotated off the

committee. Although the committee's activist approach is in some cases welcome, it does not always translate well into local, pragmatic and implementable sustainability initiatives for the UCSF campus.

At its May 5, 2016 meeting, the Coordinating Committee considered a proposal from COS Chair Torsten Wittmann to abolish the COS for the reasons stated. Coordinating Committee members subsequently approved the following: 1) Elimination of the existing COS; 2) create an ad-hoc sustainability committee that would draw its membership from existing COS; and 3) appoint a Senate faculty to member the UCSF Advisory Committee on Sustainability. The ad-hoc Committee on Sustainability would meet twice a year to advance sustainability issues on the UCSF campus.