

JOINT RESOLUTION

JSR-2021-2022-001

I. Resolution Name: Affirmation of, and Support for, Sustainability Efforts in the UCO Community

II. Committee Assigned/Sponsoring Committee: Stakeholder Relations and Involvement

- a. Faculty Senate: Faculty Welfare Committee, Sponsoring Senator(s) – Parliamentarian Alyssa Provencio
- b. Staff Senate: Stakeholder Relations and Involvement Committee, Sponsoring Senators Hendricks, Kaiser, Jackson, Lockwood, Taylor, Wallace
- c. UCO Student Association:

III. Stated Resolution:

Be it resolved that the University of Central Oklahoma Staff Senate affirms the importance of awareness, understanding, and practices of sustainability on the University of Central Oklahoma campus and beyond.

We affirm that prioritizing sustainability enables us to fully meet the UCO mission to “help students learn through transformative educational experiences, growing productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders” of a more secure world where the environment, society, and economy exist in balance to meet the resource needs of today and of future generations.

We call upon fellow UCO community members to consider sustainability as a driver of academic curriculum, scholarly/creative practice, student/staff/faculty programming, campus practices & operations, and community engagement.

IV. Definition of Terms:

Sustainability: providing for the current generation’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability can be broken down into three distinct, yet intertwining categories: environment, economics, and social justice.

V. Justification:

Locally, nationally, and globally, there is growing interest in and urgent need for sustainability. At the University of Central Oklahoma, students, faculty, and staff have worked to address sustainability through cross-division collaboration, alignment with the pillar of transformative learning, and community engagement. Historically, administrative support and financial stewardship were keys to institutional success toward a more sustainable campus.

Further, recent studies, including The Princeton Review’s 2021 College Hopes & Worries Survey Report, reiterate that students are more likely to choose universities with environmental priorities, and the literature on student retention points to the importance of green experiences both inside and outside the classroom. As we prepare the generations of students for their lives in a changing world, they will be called on to stabilize and repair the ecosystem, develop sustainable economic initiatives, and learn how to preserve and appreciate the natural world while carving out and adapting lifestyles amenable to the impending requisite cultural changes.

Sustainability is also a burgeoning career field. According to the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, since 2004, careers in sustainability have grown 17.33% nationwide with a sustained average growth of 2.89% per year. In Oklahoma, there are currently 5,450 people employed in sustainability-designated jobs.

Successful sustainability programs and initiatives require the hearts, minds, and work of a diverse set of people. Sustainability demands interdisciplinary research, collaborative thinking, and open dialogue between community residents, students, and university faculty and staff. For UCO to strengthen its tradition of contributing to the cultural, social, economic, and intellectual life of the region, we encourage and support the inclusion of sustainability as integral to the UCO experience.

VI. Office(s) Contacted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Department</u>	<u>Date Contacted</u>
Mark Walvoord	Student Transformative Learning Record	March 9, 2022

VII. Office(s) Affected:

Entire Campus

VIII. Directed to:

Office of the President
President’s Cabinet
Katrina Lacher, Director, Sustainability Studies Minor
Kelly Vaughn, Assistant Director, Physical Plant

Passed by consent of the UCO Staff Senate this 3rd day of May, 2022.



Adriana Edwards-Johnson, Staff Senate President