

Student Sustainability Committee (SSC)

The student committee of the Presidential Working Group on Sustainable Education, Research, and Operations

Attend one of our info sessions on Zoom!

- Monday, August 30, 12-12:30 pm: <https://uscadm.zoom.us/j/98958898726>
- Tuesday, September 7, 8-8:30 pm: <https://uscadm.zoom.us/j/94052041774>

Link to apply: <https://forms.gle/Ew8FaLSgNWWyyMee6>

FAQ:

What will the student sustainability committee do?

- Serve as an advisory body that provides student input and recommendations on university sustainability plans, goals and projects
- Act as sustainability ambassadors for the larger student body
- Establish communication networks for sustainability news and issues throughout the many schools and communities that make up USC
- Expand student culture prioritizing sustainability
- Initiate innovative sustainability projects as decided by the committee

What is the PWG?

PWG is short for the Presidential Working Group on Sustainable Education, Research, and Operations. It was established by President Folt in September 2019 to provide recommendations to her on the institutional design changes and policies across the university needed to transform USC into a leader in sustainability. The Group is chaired by Dan Mazmanian, professor of environmental and sustainability policy at the Price School.

How is the PWG structured?

The main PWG is composed of approximately 30 faculty, staff, and students, including members from across schools, fields of research, and administrative offices. There are 5 sub-committees which each have around 8 - 20 members. The sub-committees are focused on:

- Research
- Campus Operations
- Education
- Engagement
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

The student committee will be the 6th committee of the PWG. The members of the student committee will nominate 2 of their members to sit on the main PWG (with approval from

President Folt), and some members of the SSC may also be invited to sit on each of the other 5 sub-committees. Therefore, the SSC will not be the only place that students are located, but rather a place where a larger group of students can work together in addition to representation on each of the other committees.

How will this committee address issues of equity?

The PWG believes that social justice is inherently interconnected with issues of sustainability. Thus, equity will be a major element in all recommendations and projects that the student committee collaborates on. In the application process we will be looking for applicants who understand the importance of environmental justice when solving sustainability issues, especially regarding the historically marginalized communities surrounding USC.

How is this committee different from other student organizations?

This committee will be a recommending body to the larger PWG, whose big-picture recommendations go directly to President Folt. Committee members will have the opportunity to experience the process of changemaking through university administration.

Note: this committee is focused on broad university policy and institutional change rather than specific projects related to campus sustainability. Most recommendations are big-picture and long-term. If you are interested in more near-term, specific campus sustainability projects we are happy to connect you with those working in that area.

How many positions are there on the SSC?

We anticipate that this committee will have around 30 members, with around 8 leadership roles. However, the number of positions will depend on the amount of applications we receive.

Who will be on the SSC?

We aim to achieve inclusion of both undergraduate and graduate students from across the university (both UPC and HSC), as well as students from each of USC's six Cultural Communities, plus representatives from Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Government, and the Environmental Student Assembly.

Who will lead the SSC?

In the beginning, the committee will be led by Hannah Findling, recent master's graduate from Price and now Project Specialist in the President's Office, and Jenn Gribben, current Rossier PhD student and Research Assistant for the PWG. However, we hope to establish roles for approximately 8 students as designated leaders, and we hope that students will take over leading the SSC. We plan for Hannah and Jenn's leadership on the committee to decrease significantly as the student members become more established.

How often and where will the committee meet?

The entire student committee will likely meet once per month. However, we will encourage the formation of sub-groups to focus on various issues or work on specific projects. The sub-groups will decide on their meeting frequency.

Whether the meetings are in person or virtual will depend on current COVID guidelines.

However, when we are able to meet in person we are committed to also providing a virtual option for those who would need it.

What is the length of this appointment?

This is an annual appointment starting with the 2021-2022 school year.

What will you be looking for in applications?

There is no particular experience required to be on this committee! We are looking for students who are passionate about sustainability and eager to engage in changemaking through the university. We will be looking for diversity in school, program of study, degree/year, demographics, interests, experience, involvement, etc. We are also looking for applicants who understand the interconnection between sustainability and DEI.

How will students be selected?

Applications will be reviewed by Hannah and Jenn. The Chairs of the DEI and Education Committees, as well as the Chair of the main PWG will review and approve the final set of applicants recommended by Hannah and Jenn.

When are applications due?

Applications are due September 10th.

When will students be notified?

Decisions will be sent out by September 27th.

Is the committee compensated?/Is this a paid position?

No. However, students in leadership roles may be given a small stipend.

We hope to provide students with other benefits, such as meals at monthly meetings (should this be permitted based on Covid-guidelines), a title to add to your resume or CV, experience in sustainability and organizational change, and networking opportunities.

When will the first meeting occur?

The week of October 4th.

How can I apply?

There is a short application which can be submitted using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/Ew8FaLSgNWWyyMee6>. We may reach out to you during the application process to have a conversation over Zoom.

Still have questions?

Attend one of our info sessions (listed at the top) or send an email to Hannah or Jenn:

- Hannah's email: hfindling@president.usc.edu
- Jenn's email: jgribben@usc.edu