

THE GREEN FUND OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND AFFILIATIONS

The account will be named “The Green Fund.” The group that will govern The Green Fund will be called The Green Fund Advisory Committee (herein referred to as “Committee”). The Green Fund is a constituent organization of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (“UNCG”) and is affiliated with the Division of Student Affairs.

ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

The goal of the Green Fund is to support sustainability initiatives on campus at UNCG. UNCG’s commitment to sustainability is specified in the UNCG Climate Action Plan and the UNCG Strategic Plan. The Sustainability Policy of the University of North Carolina mandates that UNCG achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

UNCG’s Strategic Plan (2009-2015) defines sustainability as “*Academics, operations, and outreach ... conducted with careful attention to the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, the economy, and aesthetics.*” By supporting campus sustainability initiatives, the Green Fund also supports UNCG’s strengths in the arts, diversity, social entrepreneurship, service-learning, and community and global engagement. Projects supported by the Green Fund will invest in campus infrastructure as well as academic and professional development opportunities for students.

The Green Fund will be governed by the Committee, which will be led by students with guidance provided by the Sustainability Council and Office of Sustainability along with UNCG employees from the administration (especially Facilities) and academics (particularly the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program).

ARTICLE 3 – SCOPE OF THE GREEN FUND

The revenue generated by the Green Fund will be used for projects that aim to achieve goals set forth in UNCG’s Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan. The Green Fund will invest primarily in campus infrastructure improvements to help reduce costs and meet UNCG’s goal of climate neutrality. The Green Fund will also invest in sustainability education, research, and professional development opportunities that benefit students.

ARTICLE 4 – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended if necessary. A two-thirds majority vote of Committee members is required to approve amendments.

BYLAWS:

ARTICLE 1 – GREEN FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Section 1.1 – Powers and Voting:

The Committee has authority over all Green Fund allocations. A simple majority of the Committee's full membership is required for quorum. Aside from his/her normal function as part of the Committee, a member has no individual authority. The Committee will operate under the supervision of the Division of Student Affairs.

The Committee manages and administers the Fund, awarding support both to projects submitted by members of the campus constituency via the request for proposal process as well as to projects that the Committee identifies and develops. Funds will roll over from one semester to the next if not entirely disbursed.

Section 1.2 – Green Fund Committee Membership:

The Committee will be comprised of seven (7) to nine (9) voting members, full-time students in good academic standing, that have interest and knowledge of sustainability at UNCG. Members will include:

- 1 student (member or officer, undergraduate or graduate) appointed by UNCGreen.
- 1 graduate student appointed by the Graduate Student Association.
- 1 undergraduate student appointed by the Student Government Association.
- 1 undergraduate student appointed by the Residence Hall Association.
- Three (3) to five (5) students selected by the Green Fund Committee through an annual application process.
- Five (5) to six (6) employees, consisting of the entirety of the staff and faculty members serving as the Executive Committee of the Sustainability Council or duly designated alternate(s).
- Other non-voting members will be added should subject matter expertise be necessary.

Members will be solicited and appointed by the elected Co-Chairs of the Committee (see below). Additional (non-voting) members or changes in the membership must be voted on and approved by a simple majority of the Committee. Changes in the membership must also be approved by the Division of Student Affairs. Furthermore, attention should be given to the diversity of the Committee members, including but not limited to college/school affiliation, gender, and race/ethnicity.

Section 1.3 – Green Fund Committee Officers:

The Committee will have at minimum the following roles:

- **Two Co-Chairs**, one Student Co-Chair and one Employee (staff or faculty) Co-Chair, will preside over all meetings of the Committee, establish meeting agendas, ensure Committee roles are filled, and ensure expenditures are meeting the goals and requirements of the Green Fund. In the absence of the Student (or Employee) Co-Chair, the Employee (or Student) Co-Chair will

assume all duties of the Co-Chairs until the Student (or Employee) Co-Chair returns or is elected. Any Co-Chair must have served on the Committee at least one term prior to assuming the role (preferably the term immediately preceding becoming Chair).

- The **Treasurer** will monitor Fund allocations, track the Fund, and stay in regular contact with Student Affairs and the University Budget Office to ensure accountability of expenditures.
- The **Secretary** will record minutes and ensure they are publicly accessible.

Section 1.4 – Terms and Elections of the Green Fund Committee Members and Officers:

Membership terms are as follows:

- Student members will have one-year terms, with no limitations to number of terms served.
- Student membership will be established such that at least one student has served a consecutive previous term on the Committee.
- Employee members will serve two-year terms, with no limitations to number of terms served.
- Elected positions are one-year terms, with no limitations to number of terms elected.
- Elected positions should begin/end with the fiscal year to allow for transition of students and employees working on the academic year cycle.

At the first meeting of each academic year, the Committee will take nominations and volunteers for officer positions. Officers will be elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee.

Section 1.5 – Duties of the Committee:

Specific duties of the Committee include but are not limited to:

- Understand UNCG's priorities with regard to sustainability as described in the Climate Action Plan and other documents.
- Collaborate with the Division of Student Affairs, Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Council, and other relevant bodies at UNCG and in the greater Greensboro community.
- Work with the student body as a whole to solicit and develop sustainability ideas and proposals.
- Work with faculty and staff to solicit and develop sustainability ideas and proposals.
- Periodically review priorities for campus initiatives that work to achieve the sustainability goals in the Climate Action Plan and other documents.
- Offer one (or more) request(s) for proposals (RFP) per academic year for sustainability project ideas from the UNCG community.
- Produce written grant parameters, submission form, and a timeline for the grant cycle that aligns with the academic calendar.
- Vote, by two-thirds (of full Committee membership) majority, on projects to fund that represent campus sustainability priorities, and determine the fund apportionment.
- Establish project monitoring to ensure accountability of funds allocated.
- Document project environmental, social, economic, or other impacts.

- Submit copies of all proposals received to the Division of Student Affairs for continuity in keeping records on file and creating an inventory of potential projects that were proposed
- Submit an annual summary of the projects funded, account financial status, and project impacts to SGA, GSA, Division of Student Affairs, and the Office of Sustainability. This summary will also be shared with the university community and made available online to the general public via a Green Fund webpage.
- Participate in marketing and outreach activities for the Fund.
- Review annually the student fee used to support the Fund and submit any and all necessary materials to the University Budget Office to be used in the Student Fee Review process.

Section 1.6 – Standard Operating Procedures:

The Committee will meet at least once each month of the fall and spring semesters in the academic year. (If necessary, the Co-Chairs may call additional meetings.) The first meeting of the academic year will occur in August and will serve, in part, as an orientation for the Committee; plans for the semester will also be discussed. All meetings are open to the public; final discussion of and voting on proposals for funding, however, will be conducted in closed sessions that include only the voting members specified in Section 1.2.

Section 1.7– Conflicts of Interest:

The Committee will conduct itself in such a way that conflicts of interest are minimized and all potential conflicts of interest are made public. Members, officers, and/or their affiliated organizations are not prohibited from applying but should be held to the same standard as all other applicants. Individual Committee members applying on behalf of, or associated with, an organization will recuse themselves from voting when direct personal involvement is present.

ARTICLE 2 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AND PROJECT SELECTION

Section 2.1 – Budget Restrictions:

Projects that are selected for funding by the Committee will align with the 2009-2014 UNCG Strategic Plan and the 2013 Climate Action Plan, as well as initiatives and long-term strategic planning projects of the Sustainability Council (e.g., in the Sustainability Matrix). Given that these Plans are living documents that are updated periodically, the Committee has the authority to establish and revise grant proposal guidance and parameters that ensure funded projects advance these planning goals. Individuals or groups may apply for funds. The Committee may also propose and fund initiatives it develops based on University priorities.

While guidelines may be suggested, there will be no minimum budget figure for projects. However, the Committee should fund those projects that have the greatest benefits to the campus. Benefits may include, but are not limited to: energy reduction, cost avoidance, waste reduction, or intangible value to students and employees. The Committee may choose to set funds aside to accrue capital reserves for future endeavors or larger projects. To leverage larger projects, the committee may choose to commit a

portion of the Green Fund for up to three years in the future (thus providing four years total funding to any one project). Any large-scale project so funded should be reviewed in year three to determine if an extension (up to three more years) is warranted after the conclusion of the fourth year (with the result of seven years of funding); such renewals may continue as long as the Committee approves.

Section 2.2 – Restrictions and Priorities:

There is no limit on how many items the Green Fund can support each year, provided all projects fall within the overall budget. In addition to campus infrastructure projects, efforts will be made to allocate funds for sustainability education such as student internships, peer-to-peer education program, experiential programs, or other student education or professional development projects, ***subject to UNCG financial spending policies and guidelines.***

ARTICLE 3 – GUIDELINES FOR FUND ALLOCATION

The following allocation guidelines will apply:

- Any funds not distributed or dispensed in a given year will remain in the Green Fund account for future use.
- Allocated project funds that are not spent within the time frame presented in the approved proposal will be redirected to other projects or continue to be used on the current project with an extended time frame (pending approval of a formal request for an extension), at the discretion of the Committee.
- Project funds distributed by the Green Fund may not be used or reallocated for purposes outside of the scope of the originally approved proposal, unless formally approved by the Committee.

ARTICLE 4 – ACCOUNTABILITY, RECORDS, AND REPORTS

Section 4.1 - Accountability to the Student Body:

The Green Fund is accountable to the UNCG student body and will therefore:

- Make all of its records available to the public, with the exception of final discussion of proposals and voting, which will occur in Closed Sessions during meetings.
- Annually, submit a summary of the projects funded, account financial status, and project impacts to SGA, GSA, Student Affairs, the Office of Sustainability, and the Sustainability Council. This summary will also be included on a Green Fund website.

Section 4.2 – Accountability of Projects:

All projects receiving support from the Green Fund must submit both progress and final reports to the Committee. Progress reports should be submitted at a frequency determined by the Committee on a case-by-case basis, with particular attention to the specifics of the project; these reports must include a budget that details the spending of funds to date and how goals and milestones are achieved. A final

report on all projects funded will be required upon project completion. These will be shared with SGA, GSA, Student Affairs, and the University Sustainability Office, and will be made available through the Green Fund website.

Upon review of progress or final project reports, the Committee will assess whether the funds were spent within the scope of the project. The Committee will evaluate the project status based on all available information. If a determination is made that some or all of the funds were expended outside of the project scope, the Committee may recommend that any remaining funds allocated to the project be redirected elsewhere or, in the case of final reports, that individuals be prohibited from receiving future funding.

Section 4.3 – Records and Reports

The Committee must keep on record:

- Minutes of all Committee meetings including, but not limited to:
 - Meeting time
 - Meeting location
 - Names of voting members present
 - Proceedings
- Thorough and correct books and records of account transactions and summaries of its assets, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses.
- Projects selected each year and the funds allocated to each.
- Reports made back to the Committee on completed projects.
- Copies of all annual reports.
- Cumulative impacts of projects.

ARTICLE 5 - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS:

Modifications to the Committee Bylaws may be recommended to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs by a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Committee. Recommended modifications must be consistent with the mission of the Green Fund.

Section 5.1 – Formation Amendment:

For the establishment of the Green Fund Committee in the fall of 2015, the following one-time exceptions are necessary:

- The inaugural Co-Chairs need not have served previously, although they should be individuals with knowledge of campus sustainability at UNCG.
- Rather than a call for three (3) applications, the inaugural Committee will appoint three student members according to guidance in Section 1.2.