Sustainability Policy
Students’ Legislative Council (66.67)
Passed: March 3, 2009 (66.67)
Amended: November 26, 2013 (71.40);
November 1, 2016 (74.21)

Definitions

Sustainability shall be understood as a concept, strategy, and goal related to the governance, advocacy, and operations of the Students’ Union (SU) such that meeting the needs of the present does not compromise the organization’s ability to meet future needs. Characterized by the three “E’s”: environment, economics, and equality, areas for sustainability include, but are not limited to:

- Academics;
- Accessibility;
- Energy and environment;
- Ethics, social responsibility, and governance;
- Health and wellness;
- New construction, renovations, and building maintenance;
- Purchasing;
- Responsible use of resources;
- Student engagement;
- Transportation;
- Waste management; and
- Water management.

Authority

1 (1) Section 93(3) of the Post-Secondary Learning Act legislates that the students’ association of a public post-secondary institution shall provide for the administration of student affairs at the public post-secondary institution, including the promotion of the general welfare of the students consistent with the purposes of the public post-secondary institution.

(2) Article VI, Section B of the Constitution establishes the Students’ Legislative Council (SLC) as the policy making body responsible for the business and affairs of the Students’ Union.

Purpose

2 (1) This policy serves to demonstrate the Students’ Union’s commitment to sustainability and provides a vision for Students’ Union governance, advocacy, and operations to ensure that it may continue to effectively serve and represent undergraduate student interests at the University of Calgary. This framework, which outlines principles and identifies areas for sustainability, allows for a broad and comprehensive understanding of what sustainability means to the organization.
Policy Statement

3 (1) The Students’ Union will strive to meet present and future needs of students in a financially, socially and environmentally responsible manner according to the following principles. The SU will:

(a) Weigh the costs and benefits of decisions fully, including long-term costs and benefits to future generations;
(b) Acknowledge that resources are finite and there are limits to growth;
(c) Wherever possible, endeavor to reduce its ecological impact by seeking sustainable alternatives and striving toward minimal/zero waste;
(d) Draw upon current best practices in sustainability;
(e) Where appropriate, support and work alongside university and student groups on sustainability initiatives;
(f) Incorporate awareness and educational outreach in sustainability initiatives; and
(g) Solicit feedback from stakeholders regarding the implementation of sustainability initiatives.