

Willamette University Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability Constitution

Last updated May 1st, 2021

Preamble: Goals of the “Green Initiative Fee”

The purpose of the fund is to provide students, faculty, and staff of Willamette University with an opportunity to make environmentally, culturally, and socially sustainable changes as a community. The fund will advance the state of sustainability, equity, and social justice in the Willamette University community. While the fund is sourced from student fees, the impact of projects is welcome to extend beyond our campus.

Article I: Committee Summary

Section 1: General Role of the Committee

During the academic year, the allocation and management of the fund will be the responsibility of the committee. It is the responsibility of the committee to not only make decisions regarding the fund, but also to advertise and promote the availability of the fund to students, faculty, and staff of the Willamette campus community. It is important that access to the fund is equitable. These funds are intended for investment each year on projects that advance sustainability, equity, and social justice.

Article II: Standards To How Grants Shall Be Evaluated

Section 1: Proposed Grant Requirements

The committee shall focus on the following when considering funding proposals:

1. Feasibility.
2. Longevity, long-term maintenance, and sustainability.
3. Level of support from and engagement of relevant students, faculty, and staff.
4. Benefit to the Willamette campus community.
5. Effective use of funds.

The proposals coming from students, staff, and faculty of the incorporated graduate schools will be evaluated as follows:

The committee will be presented with a forecasted amount of funding and be tasked with deciding on a flexible monetary cap on mini-grants that benefit each respective graduate school. This cap will be representative of the portion of the Fund contributed by the respective schools. This measure is to promote equitable funding of proposals, recognizing that the graduate schools would contribute less to the fund than the College of Liberal Arts.

Article III: Committee members

Section 1: Student members

Undergraduate students interested in serving as members of the committee will submit applications to the voting committee members of the current committee who will make the final placement decisions. The Committee will include voting student members who hold the following positions. The voting members will be selected by the current committee members or appointed by previous representatives (see below). Members may only hold one position at one time. Voting members will be paid according to the levels described in the bylaws.

- At least 1 Student Committee Chair
- 1 Student Outreach Coordinator
- 1 Student Proposal Consultant
- At least 1 Student Project Advisor
- 1 Student Secretary
- 1 Student Bar Association (SBA) student representative (recommended by SBA President and faculty, confirmed by committee)
- 1 Atkinson Student Association (ASA) student representative (recommended by ASA President and faculty, confirmed by the committee)

Members will be appointed by the committee at the end of each spring semester. The committee chair(s) will work with ASWU to have appointments made before the beginning of the fall semester.

Section 2: Ex-Officio members

The committee will also include non-voting ex-officio committee members to advise the committee. These members need not apply to sit on the committee, but rather are included in the committee by virtue of their job title. The ex-officio members will be:

- 1 Faculty Advisor
 - 1 Student Financial Officer (paid position through CAFES funding, hired by committee members)
 - The Director of Willamette University Sustainability Institute
 - The Vice President of Equity and Diversity
 - Vice President of Campus Life or designee
 - Associate Director of Facilities Management or designee
- *If the fund is ever altered to provide parameters for purchasing clean energy, an appropriate administrator will also be included on the committee as an ex officio member.

Article IV: Rolling over funds

Section 1: Annual fund rollover

If, by the end of the fiscal year, the fund has a remaining balance, the balance will roll over to the following year. The committee will roll over a set amount every year, outlined in the bylaws, subject to change. This will build the fund's size and security, allowing the fund to support larger investments for student projects in the future. The committee may opt to eliminate this provision once the fund has reached a desired threshold, or by adjusting the requirement going forward. The committee can only take these steps based on a 75% consensus. In this way, the fund will be able to sustain projects that periodically require a significant capital investment. The committee will regularly evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the fund.

Article V: Changing or eliminating the fee

Section 1: Increasing or decreasing the fee

If the committee desires a change to the size of the fee administered to students, this change must go through a campus-wide student vote. The committee may decide to place a cap on the amount of money available. If a maximum fund size is instituted, the fee may be altered each year to reach the cap without going over it. This would prevent accumulation of too much grant money.

Section 2: Eliminating the fee

The fee and grant process may be eliminated if the program is ineffective. The program may be deemed ineffective if less than 50% of the available funds are allocated for two years in a row or if many previously awarded grants are not completed effectively. If either of these two events occurs, the committee must work to rectify any problems by amending the committee constitution or changing the way that grant advertising, application, awarding, and support are managed.

If the committee decides that the fee and grants should be eliminated completely in their present form, a 75% majority vote can require that the \$25/semester fee be stopped. If the grant account contains enough money to support further grants, students may continue to apply for grants twice a year until the account cannot support further grants. The committee will remain intact to decide between grant applications and monitor projects. Once the fund balance falls below \$1,000, the remaining balance will be passed to the Sustainability Institute budget.

Article VI: Changing the committee constitution

Section 1: Changes to the constitution

At any time, the committee may opt to change any of the policies detailed above. Unlike fund dispersal decisions which require a simple majority, the Committee will be committed to decisions based on a 75% majority.