NMSU Sustainability Council Business Plan
June 30, 2010

A. Executive Summary
The Sustainability Council creates and supports an environment of sustainable practices for students, faculty/staff and NMSU stakeholders. This volunteer council is committed to education, research, operations and engagement that build an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable campus and community.

B. Mission and Vision Statements
Mission: The Sustainability Council will facilitate and support sustainability goals system-wide and in partnership with local communities.
Vision: To be leaders in sustainable operations, education, and research; to be a resource and inspiration for future generations.

C. Definition of Sustainability
Sustainability means meeting the economic, environmental, and social needs of the present generation while taking steps to ensure that similar needs of future generations are met.

D. Core Values
- Respect for humanity and all living things
- Understanding that the natural and built environments are intertwined
- Unity of purpose through collaboration and interaction of ideas
- Pride in our heritage with consideration for the future
- Integrity of actions
- Passion for sustainability

E. Goals and Timeline (completion date and team responsible)
- Update Office of Sustainability (OoS) website (12/01/10 by PAE and OoS, with ongoing maintenance)
- Prepare list of metrics for annual reporting on energy savings and efficiencies (12/15/10 by OP)
- Establish volunteer action arenas for faculty, staff, and students (02/02/11 by Leadership Team)
- Create media campaign for Office of Sustainability (01/12/11 by OoS and PAE)
- Increase sustainability programs campus and statewide (03/01/11 by PAE)
- Complete and submit AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) “STARS” (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System) reporting (due 05/21/11 by all teams)
- Infuse sustainability into the curriculum and encourage sustainability-related research throughout the entire NMSU system (02/2012 by ER and ongoing)

F. Operational Plan
a. Management and Organizational structure
   i. Council reports to Office of the President
   ii. Chair of the Council is the manager of the Office of Sustainability to maintain connection and communication
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iii. Working committees are responsible for developing action plans and follow the STARS reporting outline

1. Operations (OP)
   This committee is made up of representatives from the Office of Facilities and Services (OFS), Auxiliary Services, and Housing and Residential Life departments, as well as others concerned with maintaining buildings and infrastructure sustainably at NMSU. The Operations Committee has a large role in greening the campuses including involvement in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and xeriscaping efforts and participation in cutting energy costs by metering the mechanical systems in buildings across the state, switching out incandescent lamps for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and purchasing Energy Star® appliances.

2. Education and Research (ER)
   This committee will ensure that sustainability is infused throughout the core curriculum to give each graduate of NMSU multiple perspectives for dealing with sustainability-related challenges. The ER committee will also work to identify and support sustainability-related research by NMSU faculty.

3. Planning, Administration, and Engagement (PAE)
   The Planning, Administration, and Engagement committee works to institutionalize sustainability at NMSU through sustainability coordination, incorporating sustainability into campus plans, and developing further plans to move toward sustainability. PAE will help NMSU organize, implement, and publicize sustainability initiatives, providing the infrastructure that fosters sustainability within an institution.

G. Structure of Council
   a) Composed of volunteers from the faculty, staff and student body, and other stakeholders
      i. Welcoming all volunteers at the discretion of the Leadership Team
      ii. Outside advisors will be invited to join Council (e.g., City of Las Cruces representative, Doña Ana County representative, etc.)
   b) Council Chair will be nominated by membership or self-nominated, elected by Leadership Team, and appointed and approved by University president
      i. Retain Past-Chair in Leadership Team for one-year period for continuity
      ii. Leadership Team is composed of Council Chair, committee leaders, past-chair, and representatives from the following: ASNMSU, Faculty Senate, and Employee Council
      iii. Leadership team is made up of three committee leaders and a chair who each serve a two year term. The PAE leader and the Council Chair shall be selected in the second fall meeting of even number years and the leaders of the OPS and ER committee shall be selected in the second fall meeting of odd numbered years.
      iv. For each two year period, the Chair shall rotate between faculty and staff
      v. Representatives from ASNMSU, Faculty Senate, and Employee Council shall be appointed for a one-year term each group.
   c) Election of Leadership Team
      i. Committee chairs are appointed by Leadership Team and Chair (2-year commitment with opportunity to continue with terms of 1 year)
      ii. Co-chairs are appointed by Leadership Team
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1. 2-year commitment with opportunity to continue with terms of 1 year; it is encouraged that this position be filled by students to facilitate student input and provide leadership training opportunities

H. Background information
   a) Year of Sustainability Summary:  http://sustainability.nmsu.edu/documents/yos_summary.pdf
   b) ACUPCC (American College and University President’s Climate Commitment): http://acupcc.aashe.org/search/?abs=&q=New%20Mexico%20State%20University%20Main%20Campus
   c) AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) STARS: https://stars.aashe.org/