

**Submission from the Sustainability Committee to the Faculty Senate
For Consideration as a Senate Resolution
December 2004**

Whereas, Sustainability is an emerging field of study involving multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and teaching;

Whereas, Sustainability is a proven forward-thinking approach to operations that advance environmental stewardship and the responsible use of human and natural resources;

Whereas, efforts aimed at making the University of Florida a global leader in sustainability are under way; and

Whereas, the University of Florida has a ten-year history of pursuing sustainability initiatives as demonstrated in the following milestones:

- 1994: UF joined 310 universities world-wide in signing the Talloires Declaration, pledging support to reduce environmental degradation and natural resource depletion.
- October 1997: The Greening UF program was initiated as a grassroots movement of students, faculty and staff from across the campus for environmental stewardship.
- September 2000: An Office of Sustainability was established within the College of Design, Construction and Planning to facilitate, among other things, sustainability initiatives on campus and in the community.
- March 2001: A Sustainability Task Force was created jointly by the President and Faculty Senate, following a Faculty Senate proposal of December 2000.
- July 2002: The Task Force released the Final Report.
- October 2002: The Faculty Senate endorsed the Task Force Final Report, but asked for continuation of its term until Fall 2004 for developing an implementation plan.
- March 2003: In response to a request from President Young, the Task Force identified high priority recommendations from the Final Report.
- April 2004: A Student Senate resolution (#1041) urged the creation of a university office of sustainability with "full administrative support."
- September 2004: An ad-hoc Sustainability Committee was established through appointments from the Faculty Senate and President Machen.

NOW THEREFORE:

The Faculty Senate accepts the following recommendations of Sustainability Committee aimed at enhancing initiatives for making the University of Florida a global leader in sustainability.

- I. The University of Florida shall establish a university-level Office of Sustainability, effective before or during the 2005-2006 academic year, for facilitating teaching, research, service, administrative, and fundraising initiatives in sustainability.
- II. The Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee shall remain empanelled until Fall semester 2005, at which time a permanent joint-committee on sustainability shall be empanelled through amendment to the University Constitution.