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Sustainability council taking applications

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Student applications for the Presidential Advisory Council on Sustainability Planning are being accepted by Ohio University's Office of Sustainability until tomorrow.

The council is being created in compliance with the Presidents' Climate Commitment, a national effort to set climate neutrality signed by OU President Roderick McDavis in March 2007.

"To really develop the sustainability plan you need an advisory council put together," said Becky Watts, chief of staff to President McDavis.

Watts added that the council will make recommendations directly to McDavis.

According to an e-mail sent to prospective student applicants by Sonia Marcus, OU's sustainability coordinator, the council will meet at least once a month, beginning later this month.

"Members should expect to commit at least two hours per week on average outside of regularly scheduled meetings to the work of the council." Marcus stated.

Marcus will co-chair the committee and made recommendations for the faculty and staff members.

Students interested in serving on the council must submit a resume and cover letter to the Office of Sustainability by 5 p.m. tomorrow.

"All student members (should) be professionally knowledgeable about campus sustainability efforts, and the council shall be formulated so as to be collectively knowledgeable about the total scope of sustainability at the university," Marcus stated in the e-mail.

Watts said the committee will comprise at least 11 total members, including three faculty members, three classified and administrative staff members and three students.

She added that the charge of this council will be to form a comprehensive sustainability plan for the university by the fall.

"The carbon reduction plan will be apart of this bigger plan," Watts said, referring to the \$35 million commitment to reduce carbon emission approved by the Board of Trustees last October.

"This will be broader. There are some academic issues as well as we look to weave sustainability education into the curriculum."

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