The Board recognizes and appreciates the strides each university has already made toward sustainability. The purpose of this policy is to outline specific ways, reflective of each university’s resource constraints and environmental impacts, in which state universities may enhance their service to Kansans as well as their leadership in addressing these challenges both on campus and, though their extensive contacts and relationships, throughout Kansas and the world.

a. Policy Statement

University policies, practices and programs should, when possible, embody approaches that reduce life cycle costs, restore or maintain the functioning of natural systems, and enhance human well-being.

For purposes of this policy provision, sustainability shall mean societal efforts to meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability presumes that the planet’s resources are finite, and should be used conservatively, wisely and equitably. Decisions and investments aimed to promote sustainability will simultaneously advance economic vitality, ecological integrity and social welfare.

b. Implementation Principles

(1) Learning Opportunities: State universities shall incorporate issues of sustainability into the learning experiences of students throughout their academic experiences.

(2) Campus Life: State universities shall strive to infuse sustainability principles into the organization of campus life. This includes encouraging students, faculty and staff to:

• Minimize their environmental impact,
• Enhance campus ecology,
• Develop and foster awareness and campus culture that recognizes the importance of sustainability principles,
• Enhance/facilitate access to environmental and ecological goods, and
• Carry these lifestyles with them when they leave the campus community.

(3) Operations: State universities shall comply with all relevant environmental laws and regulations and executive orders from the Governor, and aspire to go beyond compliance by integrating values of sustainability, stewardship, and resource conservation into activities and services. As operational decisions are made, university personnel should consider ways to improve the long-term quality and regenerative capacity of the environmental, social and economic system that support the institutional activities and needs and promote practices that minimize harmful effects of operations on the surrounding environment. State universities shall strive to maximize the efficiencies of operations and services while pursuing the goals detailed above within the resources available to institutions as they pursue excellence in fulfilling institutional missions.

(4) Campus Planning: State universities recognize that sustainable design is a means to reduce energy consumption; enhance the health, well-being and productivity of the building occupants; and improve the quality of the natural environment. All of these can contribute to high-performing university buildings with lower life cycle costs. Accordingly, the state universities shall evaluate the impact of their construction projects; incorporate green building and design methods to the extent economically feasible; and consider the impact of planning decisions on future generations of the campus community, with the goal of minimizing the environmental footprint.

(5) Administration: State universities shall develop sustainability goals that will inform institutional policies and procedures. These policies and procedures will rely on scientific and technical analysis, informed by economic realities of funding, to support efforts to develop objectives and targets for operations with indicators, or measures to assure accountability to the Board. Whenever economically feasible, sustainability will be included in areas of planning, decision-making, assessment, and reporting.

(6) Outreach: State universities have various missions and roles with regard to their relationships with entities and individuals outside their respective boundaries. Engagement with sustainability in the various areas of university life will necessarily affect these relationships. State universities shall conscientiously share the knowledge, awareness, and expertise generated by their engagement with sustainability in accordance with their respective missions and roles in serving society as a whole.

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