

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approval Authority: President

Reports To: President

Established: 2020 11 10

Amendments: 2024 04 10, 2024 12 13

1. Preamble

The President's Advisory Committee on the Action on Climate Change was an initiative created from the Climate Change Task Force (November 10, 2020) that developed recommendations of February 10, 2021, to the NOSM Board and in effect and approved by the Board on February 18, 2021.

2. Primary Objectives

The committee operates on the principle that sustainability is more than a subject-area principle and is a framework linked to the strategic directions and University.

The role of the Committee is to advise and make recommendations to the President on matters pertaining to climate change, bringing a Planetary Health perspective to NOSM U's roles as an educational and research institution and shining a sustainability lens on everything the University does.

The Committee also has a wider vision: to assist NOSM U in becoming a leader in Planetary Health, exerting a positive influence on society at large, on policies, and on our health care system.

The Committee is to identify and explore innovative solutions to educate, build awareness and promote climate action and environmental stewardship within the NOSM University community.

3. Process and Responsibilities

Committee will make recommendations on matters including but not limited to:

- Reducing NOSM U related greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reducing the environmental footprint across all NOSM U related
- Recognition, sharing and aggregation of good sustainability practices across the university.

- Help identify gaps and define policy, practices, communication strategies and educational opportunities.
- Identify reporting and measurement strategies.
- Promote existing sustainability practices.
- Advising on curricular change in planetary health concepts in NOSM U education programs in collaboration with the programs and Planetary Health Lead
- Advocating for research in Northern Ontario relating to climate change and its impact on health
- Leading events and initiatives such as Earth Day and awareness about climate change and the planetary public health crisis.

4. Composition

The membership shall consist of individuals with expertise or an interest in the mandate of the ACCC. The terms shall be two-year terms (renewable). Membership will be requested through a general 'Request for Interest' to the appropriate bodies.

It shall include members with participation from across the University portfolios. To include but not limited to representation from faculty, staff, and learners with a variety of competencies and ensuring inclusion related to our social accountability mandate.

The Chair or Co Chair, may invite, guests as subject matter experts representing specific areas of perspective related to our university community and the mandate of the committee.

Administrative support for the committee is provided by the Office of the President.

The Chair of the Committee shall be the Planetary Health Lead, a co-Chair may be appointed by the Committee.

Quorum is a simple majority of the current members.

Membership shall be the following:

- Planetary Health Lead, who shall be Chair
- University Secretary or designate
- One representative from Research and Graduate Studies recommended by the Vice President Research and Graduate Studies or designate
- One representative from facilities recommended by the Vice President Administration and COO or designate
- One representative from finance and/or procurement, recommended by the Vice President Administration and COO or designate
- One representative from the Office of Equity and Inclusion, recommended by the Associate Vice President EI

- One representative from the Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity, recommended by the Director of the Arcand Centre
- At least 3 faculty, with at least one from each Division, to be chosen by the chair
- One representative from staff (with a preference from units not already represented), to be chosen by the chair
- At least 3 learners (with a preference from programs not already represented), to be chosen by the chair

5. Roles and Responsibilities of the Members

Members of the Committee shall endeavor to work collectively to achieve the purpose and objectives of this committee. Members shall make themselves familiar with the committee's Terms of Reference.

General expectation for the members includes the following:

- Make a commitment to attend meetings and actively participate in respectful discussion with diverse perspective while being accountable to other members and to the broader community.
- Identify emerging issues and other important information to share, lead and mobilize their respective communities and sectors to accelerate climate action, and build climate resiliency through a climate justice lens.

6. Reporting and Authority

The Committee forwards recommendations for consideration to the President and when directed provides input and advice on topics that are in scope of the Committee's objectives as outlined above.

The Chair will report annually to the President on the activities and recommendations from the ACC Committee.

7. Meeting Schedule

Meetings may be conducted in person or virtually, as needed. The frequency of meetings will be determined by the committee chair, with at least 4 meetings per year.

The Administration staff supporting the committee shall take notes and action items.

Review Period: Annually or as required.

Next Review: 2026 February

Exhibit A – Board Motion of February 18, 2021

The Executive Committee herein directs the Dean, President and CEO to acknowledge the Climate and Planetary Crisis and develop a charter that outlines the principles for action by NOSM. The principles where feasible should embed climate change and planetary health into specific projects.

Further that, now that the Task Force's work has concluded, the committee recommends that a new initiative be formed under the direction of the Dean, President and CEO to explore and where feasible implement the four recommendations outlined in the report and presentation:

1. Strategic Approach to Addressing Climate Change and Planetary Crisis Charter to address climate change. This will be an opportunity for leader in medical schools, including learners that are already advocates who are engaged in pursuing initiatives in this area, to share ideas and develop tangible solutions.
2. Plan a Conference/Gathering of Leadership - where leaders in medical schools can talk about and have a conversation about addressing climate change, including students that are already advocates and pursuing initiatives in this area.
3. Embark on a research project that addresses the effects of climate change on Indigenous Communities in Northern Ontario and how these issues can be addressed, including the disparities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing incidents of clinical health care for the Indigenous people.
4. Embrace Curricular Reform at NOSM through the dual lens of EDI and Climate Change and Planetary Health lens. NOSM must engage in a continual process of self-reflection and ensure that this commitment is enshrined in the policies, processes and training for all learners, faculty, staff and advocate for the same. All education programs should evaluate what it would mean to adopt the HEART recommendations or other planetary health innovations to curriculum and learning.