B) Mission, Guiding Principles and Services Provided

The mission of the Office of Sustainability is to make the University of Florida - in its operations, education, research, and outreach - a model of sustainability, integrating the goals of ecological restoration, economic development, and social equity.

In pursuing this mandate, the Office of Sustainability will encourage and facilitate the collaborative efforts of faculty, students, and staff to generate knowledge, acquire skills, develop values, and initiate practices that contribute to a sustainable, high quality of life on campus, in the state of Florida, and across the globe.

The Office of Sustainability supports faculty, students, and staff in assuming leadership to transform the following guiding principles into practices.

**Academics and Research:** Stimulate and facilitate curricular development and research efforts in sustainability-related areas, including the promotion of service-learning and the empowerment of faculty, students, and staff to engage the campus community, university operations, and university lands as living laboratories for sustainability.

**Agriculture and Dining Services:** Promote diverse and sustainable agricultural practices that encourage the protection of farmland and the rural environment, establish food security, and support a high standard of nutrition on campus and in the community.

**Built Environment:** Construct and renovate the built environment to high standards of energy, water, and materials efficiency with minimum impacts on local ecosystems.
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**Cultural Climate:** Foster a cultural climate that supports a full range of creative expression, artistic experience, and recreational opportunity.

**Energy Conservation and Climate Change:** Monitor and minimize energy consumption, reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions, and promote the development and use of renewable energy sources.

**Equity:** Promote diversity among faculty, students, and staff. Establish policies that support living wages and fair remuneration. Facilitate a shared governance model for management of university operations and the sharing of perspectives and best practices.

**Health:** Ensure a healthy working environment for faculty, students, and staff and work to ensure equitable access to healthcare on campus and within the broader community.

**Investment:** Explore and develop opportunities to engage in socially and environmentally responsible investing.

**Land and Resource Management:** Manage lands in a sustainable manner to conserve, protect, and restore natural systems, natural resources, and biodiversity.

**Procurement:** Subscribe to procurement policies and practices that support environmentally and socially responsible products and services.

**Service, Outreach, and Extension:** Facilitate the civic engagement of faculty, students, and staff and stimulate service, outreach, and extension efforts that promote sustainable practices within community and economic development.

**Stewardship:** Encourage all members of the Gator Nation to take responsibility for the interdependent environmental, economic, and social consequences of their actions.

**Transportation:** Develop incentives and infrastructure for walking, cycling, ridesharing, and public transportation.

**Waste Reduction:** Reduce waste streams and promote closed-cycle materials practices.

**Initiatives:** Students, faculty and staff across campus are working hard to incorporate sustainability into their personal and professional lives. Below are highlights of sustainability efforts at UF related to each of our guiding principles.

**Academics and Research:** The University of Florida hosts the Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (FISE), the Water Institute, and myriad centers for environmental research, conservation, planning, design, policy and law. UF also offers more than 110 courses related to sustainability, many college-level certificates, a B.A. and minor in Sustainability Studies through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a B.S. and minor in Sustainability in the Built Environment and a Master in Sustainable Design through the College of Design Construction and Planning, a Master of Laws in Environmental and Land Use Law, and a Master of Sustainable Development Practice administered between the Center for Latin American Studies and the Center for African Studies. Through the “Prairie Project” workshops the Office of
Sustainability has helped dozens of faculty and graduate students to incorporate sustainability into a wide range of disciplines and courses.

**Agriculture and Dining Services:** In 2012 UF was ranked by the Organic Farming Research Foundation as one of the top 6 campuses in the nation for commitment to organic agriculture. UF has worked with Gator Dining Services, to develop an action plan for implementing principles of sustainability into food service operations, including regional sourcing of food, green catering, waste management and diversion, energy conservation, transportation impacts, and sustainable procurement. Since 2006, the UF campus has been consistently recognized as one of the Top 10 Vegetarian Friendly Schools. In 2013, the efforts of Gator Dining to reduce packaging waste by eliminating foam and unnecessary bags garnered special recognition from the Association for the Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) with a First Runner-up award among only eight campuses selected as Campus Sustainability Case Studies. These nationally recognized efforts will annually prevent an estimated volume of 9 freight containers of foam, and 500,000 plastic bags from going to landfill.

**Built Environment:** In 2001, UF adopted the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for all major new constructions and renovation projects. This commitment was re-confirmed and strengthened by requiring LEED-Silver criteria in 2006 and again by upgrading to LEED-Gold criteria in 2009. As of December 2013, the UF campus boasts three Platinum certified buildings, 24 Gold certified buildings, 12 Silver certified building, 14 certified buildings, and 15 Registered LEED buildings for a total of 68.

**Cultural Climate:** The University of Florida offers a cultural climate that supports a full range of creative expression, artistic experience, and recreational opportunity. New Student Programs provides a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere to new students and families while promoting learning and discovery both inside and outside the classroom. UF also has number of museums and art centers that provide unique experiences to the campus and community.

**Energy Conservation and Climate Change:** In 2006, UF president J. Bernard Machen was the first to sign the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment. University of Florida has completed carbon inventory for 2004-05 as a baseline, and is working on an inventory tool that will regularly update. UF has also published a carbon action plan and set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2025. In 2009, the University Athletic Association committed to being the nation’s first carbon neutral athletic program. Through a partnership with Neutral Gator, UF supports carbon offset projects in the local community. Since FY07 annual campus total energy consumption per square foot (SF) has decreased by 7% (we use less energy despite having constructed more than 1 Million SF of new building space). In gross energy reductions, in FY12 we used 45,095,678 KBTU/yr less compared to the baseline in FY07; enough energy saved to power more than 800 average Florida households. Since 2010, UF has completed six solar array projects allowing campus to generate some of its own power from renewable energy sources.

**Equity:** UF has set goals to ensure the university reflects racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. UF also strives to ensure that all personnel are rewarded with fair wages and benefits. The university seeks to ensure that contractors affiliated with the university meet or exceed the wage policy established for
university employees. Since 2006, the university’s fulltime graduate students have been offered health insurance. The UF Council on Diversity is currently developing an institutional plan to help the UF community embrace diversity and social justice.

**Health:** Sustainability and “green cleaning” has become a focus for UF Building Services. They have been testing and implementing a number of ergonomically designed cleaning tools and environmentally safe cleaning products and supplies. UF also initiated Healthy Gators 2010 which is a coalition of students, faculty and staff from over 40 University of Florida departments and organizations working together to create a healthier campus. UF First Lady Chris Machen is the chair of Healthy Gators 2010 whose mission is to promote a campus environment supportive of the development and maintenance of a healthy body, mind and spirit for all members of the University of Florida community.

**Investment:** The University of Florida Investment Corporation makes a list of endowment holdings and its proxy voting record on a category specific level available at the investment office to trustees, senior administrators, and other select members of the school community.

**Land and Resource Management:** The UF campus is an Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary. The UF Campus Master Plan outlines policies for responsible stewardship of land resources and sustainable development that supports the university’s mission. UF maintains 31 conservation areas on campus and 60 acres dedicated to teaching students and the public about ecology and biotic diversity. More than 90% of the irrigation water used on campus grounds is reclaimed water from UF’s waste water treatment facility.

**Procurement:** UF’s sustainable purchasing directive supports campus sustainability and provides guidelines, information, and resources in procuring products that will minimize negative impacts on society and the environment to the greatest extent practicable. The directive suggests best practices and strategies for waste reduction through purchasing, leasing, renting, as well as product take-back strategies. UF’s Purchasing Department hosts an annual Sustainable Products Trade Show each spring. In 2012 campus avoided over $2 million in new purchases by “reusing” items through Surplus Department.

**Service, Outreach, and Extension:** As a state land grant university, UF has a special obligation to meet the demand for sustainable living practices from the residents of Florida’s 67 counties. IFAS/Extension has many award winning resources that facilitate sustainable living including the Sustainable Floridians program, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program, Integrated Pest Management Florida, the Program for Resource Efficient Communities, the Bushnell Center for Urban Sustainability in Pinellas County, and the Solutions for Your Life website.

**Stewardship:** The University encourages all members of the Gator Nation to take responsibility for the interdependent environmental, economic, and social consequences of their actions. The Green Team Network supports hundreds of employees in their efforts to make UF a model of sustainability in higher education. There are Green Teams actively participating to incorporate sustainability in 88% of all colleges on campus. The Sustainability Hut, a movable sustainability education tool, provides an opportunity for the campus community to gain knowledge in different topics of sustainability through weekly, interactive activities.
In addition to the Office of Sustainability and the joint-standing Sustainability Committee, sustainability is supported by at least fifteen student groups across campus, Student Government, and the Student Senate. The senate initiated an agency for sustainability, Gators Going Green, and passed a 2007 resolution honoring the office and its commitment to promoting sustainability. The fraternities and sororities support sustainability through their Greeks Going Green campaign. The students passed a Renewable Energy Fee ballot referendum in 2006 with 78% voting in favor of the $.50/credit hour fee. The student group, Gators for a Sustainable Campus, has nearly 500 members. To date, more than 700 graduating Gators have signed the Green Graduation Pledge, vowing to take sustainable practices with them into their careers and communities.

**Transportation:** The EPA has named UF one of the best workplaces for commuters among colleges and universities. The university has committed to purchasing high fuel efficiency hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles, whenever possible. UF urges alternative modes of transportation through discounted carpool decals, an online rideshare matching service, a Zipcar shared vehicle fleet, and pre-paid regional transit for all faculty, staff, and students and their spouses. RTS buses on campus run on B20 biodiesel, and E85 is available for the campus motor pool. UF hosts the One Less Car Challenge each fall, encouraging the campus community to try alternative transportation. In Fall 2013, nearly 900 members of the campus community signed the One-Less-Car-Challenge, pledging to use an alternative form of transportation over a single-occupancy vehicle for their commute.

**Waste Reduction:** UF has set a goal of Zero Waste by 2015. The UF Office of Sustainability and PPD and a range of campus partners work together to implement comprehensive recycling programs for paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and aluminum across campus. Currently, UF recycles over 6,500 tons of material annually, 38% of the waste stream. As a first step to develop a Zero Waste Plan, in 2009 the Office of Sustainability commissioned an audit of the solid waste management practices and generation campus-wide. The audit team, from UF’s own Environmental Engineering department, conducted several waste composition studies to better assess the waste stream. With the new campus-wide waste contract partnership signed in 2013, annual waste audits will begin in 2014 and allow the campus to track efforts and identify priority areas more efficiently. UF initiated a Tail-Gator recycling program for home football games in 2006. This volunteer-based program collects over 26,000 lbs. of recyclables from home games each year.

UF has instituted an Electronics Reuse/Recycling Policy and accompanying step-by-step guide for disposal and recycling. Asset Management handles surplus equipment for reuse internally and has a “Property Swap” listserv for the exchange of supplies and non-asset goods.

University Housing provides recycling in the residence halls on campus. Housing also hosts a move-out program that works with local area charities to collect and distribute re-usable furniture and supplies. The goals of the program are three-fold: to assist local charitable agencies, to reduce the amount of usable items deposited in the local landfill during this period, and to support residents moving from residence halls.

Campus partners Pepsi and Gator Dining are committed to improving sustainability by participating in the campus-wide recycling program and Dining Services reusable mug program.
C) Proposed Increase to Base Budget FY15:

**Academic Sustainability Coordinator (0.5 FTE) / Recurring $60,000 ($47,506 buyout + $12,494 fringe)**

This request is for additional recurring funding to support a 0.5 FTE buyout for an existing UF tenured or tenure-track faculty with research and teaching interests related to sustainability to serve as an Academic Sustainability Coordinator. The need for this position to help expand the connection between operational and academic sustainability initiatives at UF has been identified by the Joint Sustainability Committee, Faculty and Administrators engaged in the various academic sustainability majors, minors and certificates on campus, campus operational collaborators, and the Office of Sustainability.

Specific responsibilities would include:

- Develop and enhance opportunities for collaboration between operational and academic sustainability programs on campus to accelerate the advancement of goals for both. On many campuses this is referred to as a “living laboratory” model, where some sustainability operational needs are identified and used as learning projects within teaching and research. This allows the piloting of sustainability ideas that could benefit campus at low cost, provides real world projects for students, while recognizing the need for campus operational programs to be delivered with a high level of service.

- Collaborate to seek outside funding from foundations and granting agencies to support campus operational and academic sustainability initiatives

- Assist with the preparation of feasibility studies for new academic sustainability projects and practices

- Support faculty and graduate student Prairie Projects workshops (to expand courses with sustainability content on campus) with a goal of engaging at least 10% of UF faculty (n=200) after 2 years

- Help document and disseminate best practices at our institution and other institutions

- Support efforts to minimize institutional obstacles to interdisciplinary teaching, research, and outreach in the area of sustainability, including funding team-teaching

- Collaborate to maintain an inventory and serve as a clearing house for information and reporting related to sustainability curriculum and research

- Work with current and future governing boards and bodies of academic programs in sustainability to monitor, evaluate and report on those programs and to encourage improvement