Sustainability Forum – Terms of Reference



Aims & Objectives:

The aim of the Sustainability Forum (SF is to support the development and implementation of operational initiatives that improve the University's sustainability and help deliver associated commitments.

To achieve its aims, the SF will:

- Adopt a cross-institutional approach
- Create opportunities for sharing experience and good practice
- Pool expertise to overcome barriers
- Provide modest financial support

Roles & Responsibilities:

Membership of the SF will include (not exclusively): GCU's Sustainability Officer; GCU SA (students); Trade Unions (staff); Strategy & Planning; Student & Staff Comms; Finance; Procurement and those leading the delivery of various operational initiatives (or their representatives).

Without detriment to existing roles/commitments, the following contributions are anticipated:

- GCU's Sustainability Officer (SO) will chair the forum and have responsibility for identifying
 priority areas (in conjunction with relevant stakeholders) to support the development of
 new interventions/initiatives with potential to reduce environmental impacts, enhance
 performance and contribute to delivering sustainability commitments. The SO will also,
 through FMD provide a secretariat for the SF.
- GCU Students' Association: will represent students and provide a link to initiatives developed by the Association.
- Trade Unions: will represent staff interests.
- Strategy & Planning: will provide a link to the University's broader strategic objectives.
- Comms: Will provide visibility to sustainability initiatives.

Examples of operational initiatives: Fairtrade Certification; Sustainable Food Policy; Sustainable Travel Plan; Circular Economy Plan; Water Efficiency Plan; Sustainable Labs; Biodiversity; Energy and Saving/CMP; sustainable procurement; student engagement.

Meetings & Updates:

SF will meet 4 times a year. Notes with actions from the meetings will be taken and include the following agenda:

- Updates on the University's performance.
- Updates from each initiative/sub groups.
- Overview of barriers and opportunities.
- New initiatives
- Lists of actions

Date: 27th February 2025