

Questions for Bucknell's PSC

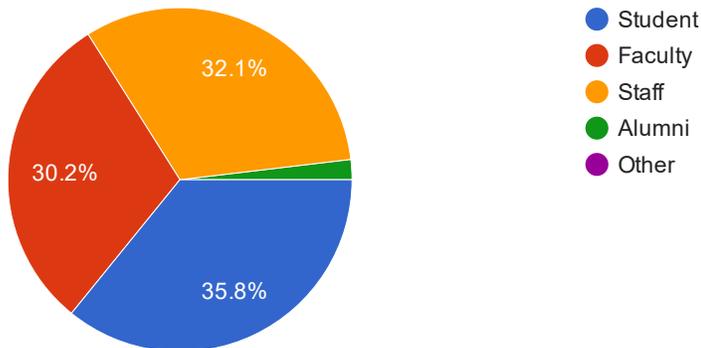
Graphs summarizing BU Affiliation and Topic of Question

Form responses collected: February 27 - March 7 2017

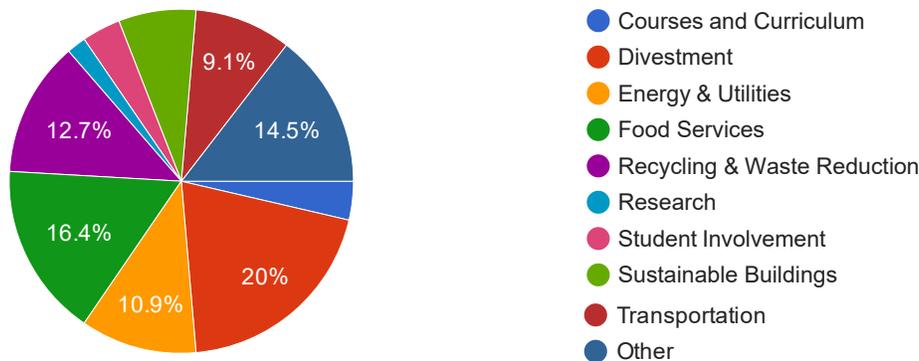
Survey Instructions:

Bucknell University's President's Sustainability Council (PSC), chaired by Ken Ogawa, Associate VP of Facilities, will offer a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Fri., March 31, in The Forum, Elaine Langone Center. Members of the Bucknell community are invited to use this form through midnight, Mon., March 6, to submit a question for the PSC to consider addressing during its first public presentation. In the interest of transparency, all questions that are submitted will be made public. These questions also will help us create a "Frequently Asked Questions" webpage for the university. Multiple form submissions are permitted, but please submit one question per form.

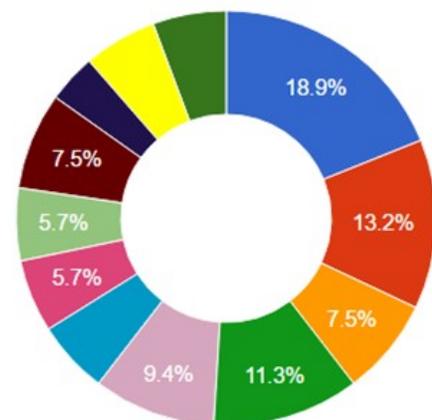
How are you affiliated with Bucknell? (53 responses)



Topic of question (55 responses) Selected by respondent



Analysis of Question Topics



Divestment	
Are there resources available through financial planning with Human Resources to talk with a TIAA CREF representative about divestment within individual retirement accounts?	Staff
Given Bucknell's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030, and the most recent AASHE sustainability review (which indicated we do not have a plan or measurable objectives for investment), can the Council explain its stance on Bucknell's divestment from fossil fuels (some or all) and any progress made on divestment?	Faculty
Where is the endowment invested? If you cannot give the exact companies to which our money is supporting, what mutual funds/pools/collections are we invested in? Do we have an ethical guide or framework for our investing? If so, what is it?	Student
When is Bucknell going to divest? What's the divestment plan that Bucknell intends on following? Why have there not been public discussion of Divestment?	Student
Why is Bucknell's investment portfolio not open to the public, despite this being perceived as a problem of lack of transparency and as such, the lack of accountability, and willingness to take serious steps towards divestment, like many of our peer schools?	Student
Considering the progress made by other universities and colleges - particularly peer institutions - towards full or partial divestment from fossil fuels, I would like to know when Bucknell will begin the process of divestment?	Faculty
On Friday, March 4, Barnard College became the latest institution of higher education to commit to divestment--in this case by divesting from "fossil fuel companies that deny climate science or otherwise seek to thwart efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change." In its press release, Barnard's Board of Trustees commented that "The divestment plan [...] aligns the College's investments with its core mission, centered on academic freedom and scientific integrity." I believe that Bucknell also values academic freedom and scientific integrity, but I understand that divestment is not currently being considered by Bucknell. Why not?	Staff
When does Bucknell plan to divest from the fossil fuel industry as many of other universities have?	Faculty
Why has the university not revealed the amount or percentage of the endowment invested in the fossil fuel industry, as other peer universities have done (we scored low in various college sustainability scorecards because of our relative lack of transparency). What does the PSC intend to do to move Bucknell to be at least as transparent regarding fossil fuel sector investments as many of our peer and aspirant institutions have been?	Faculty
Many other universities and governments have chosen to divest from fossil fuels, in a variety of ways, including Bard College and Ireland most recently. Will the PSC bring a formal request to divest the university from the fossil fuel industry to the Board of Trustees? If not, why not? If so, when?	Faculty
Food waste/Composting	
How can we improve upon the current situation regarding food waste? As a relatively new faculty member who worked at a public university for over a decade, I am struck by the culture of food here at Bucknell. While I understand the reasoning behind making free meals available to students and staff to encourage participation in on-campus events, I'm at the same time reminded daily by local radio stations of the fact that many children in the area go hungry. How can Bucknell be a better community member in terms of fighting food scarcity for the surrounding population while also modeling good practices in terms of fighting food waste on campus?	Faculty
Why doesn't Bucknell have a composting program?	Staff
Is on-campus composting feasible, and if so, where can students express their interest in this idea to receive the proper resources to see its execution?	Student
What happens to Bucknell food waste right now? Why is Bucknell not composting?	Student
How is food waste handled on campus? To what extent is food deemed unfit for consumption composted?	Student
Why doesn't Bucknell compost food waste and what does the PSC intend to change in order to implement this?	Faculty
I have a two-part question concerning food waste and food composting. What are Bucknell's plans for reducing food waste and minimizing packaging, and when does it plan to restart its food composting partnership?	Faculty
Current energy use/Alternatives	
What are the university's plans for alternative (non-fossil-fuel) energy sources? How do we plan to reach our carbon commitment?	Faculty
Why, with a plethora of wide open rooftop spaces, does Bucknell not have a meaningful investment in solar technology?	Staff
In the pursuit of carbon neutrality with regards to electricity generation, how much energy is renewable generated by Bucknell University, purchased renewable, and carbon offsets?	Student
What is the breakdown of the sources of energy on campus? Is there a plan to buy and increase our dependence on renewable sources of energy? If there isn't, why not?	Student

Compostable/Re-usable food containers	
Can Bucknell's catering company be encouraged to offer decomposing plates and cutlery or to reduce the fee for using reusable items?	Staff
Has the school considered using compostable take-out containers instead of the plastic ones we currently use?	Student
Why do we have food (Mexican/salads) sold in the Bison that is only made in to-go plastic containers and not provided for on plates or baskets for in-house orders?	Student
Is it feasible and relatively inexpensive to get compostable plasticware, napkins, straws? Would this be a cost effective way to contribute to a lower impact? The university must go through literal tons of plasticware each week just with the Bison alone.	Faculty
Don't all of the catered lunches waste both a lot of food and use too much plastic and other one-time flat and table ware?	Staff
How can the university work with students to reduce the number of plastic cups and utensils, especially in places like fraternity houses?	Student
Walking/Bicycling/Shuttles to and around campus	
Can Bucknell invest in making walking and bicycling (for students and for staff and faculty) easier so that not so much of campus is devoted to parking lots and driving? For such a small, residential campus it seems there are a lot more cars everywhere than is necessary, for the environment and for health and wellness.	Staff
We have several faculty and staff who are in walkable/bikable distance to the University from the neighborhoods along Stein Lane. Could a path be put in at Monroe (or Jefferson) and Stein that would go along the West Fields and through the tunnel to encourage walking and biking (and not parking/driving) on campus?	Staff
How is this campus incentivizing biking or walking over car transport? Is there any possibility of reducing parking on campus?	Student
What plans does the university have for promoting bicycling and walking to campus from nearby communities--by students as well as faculty and staff?	Staff
Would the university consider providing daily shuttle service from outlying areas where numerous faculty and staff members live, such as Mifflinburg and Milton--and finding ways to incentivize such a service?	Staff
Communication	
Many faculty, students, and staff across campus are engaged in sustainability work, but it is not visible. How will the PSC ensure that the work being done in courses, research, facilities, student affairs, etc is made visible to both internal and external audiences as part of a Bucknell identity?	Staff
What more can the university and administration do to advertise its goals in becoming greener? For example, this past week I just heard of the drive to be carbon neutral by 2030. As a senior, I felt out of the loop having not known this and feel the school should do more to advertise its goals so as to enable students and the administration to hold themselves more accountable.	Alum
I would urge the President's Sustainability Council to inform the Bucknell community of steps it is taking to express its support of climate science, and science in general, especially given recent developments in our political system that have demonized the pursuit and investigation of truth, a patriotic and noble duty in-line with the values of the University. I believe Bucknell should be taking an openly public stance in support of action to tackle my generation's greatest challenges.	Alum
Faculty/Academics	
With a dearth of registered republican teachers, how can the school provide students with different viewpoints from which they are accustomed to within the class room?	Student
Bucknell stands in contrast with its peer institutions, aspirant colleges, and many other universities, in not having a climatologist. Why doesn't Bucknell have a climatologist faculty member, given the central importance of the climate change issue and educating Bucknellians about climate science? How does the PSC intend to work with Development to actively search for a donor for this position? (Note: this position has been proposed to the CSP repeatedly and was supposed to be part of the We Do campaign Sustainability Initiative.)	Faculty
I feel that any recognition of sustainability research efforts are limited to certain "stereotypical" constituents such as members of biology, geology, management, environmental studies and environmental engineering. In reality, sustainability, even technically speaking, is such a diverse and overarching theme, and members of OTHER communities, such as chemistry and chemical engineering, can contribute a lot. What would you say is PSC's attitude towards a more inclusive culture and opportunities (for resources, etc.)	Faculty

Student Involvement	
What structures exist to support student-driven sustainability initiatives on campus and how can/will such support be improved to better support student creativity and innovation in sustainability outside of the classroom?	Staff
Student involvement has culminated through the letter of student demands from the Bucknell Activist Delegation on campus. Why has there been no response to the students' demands with regards to the environment?	Student
Are students being educated about their own carbon footprint? Specifically, are we providing students the information they need to estimate the carbon emissions associated with their food, comfort and transportation choices?	Faculty
Green buildings/Carbon neutrality	
Is there a way to make lights on campus more sustainable (e.g dimmers, automatic shut-off etc)?	Student
Why doesn't Bucknell take part in the Living Building challenge?	Student
Why are we not building carbon-neutral buildings? Why are we not halting construction on non-neutral building right now?	Faculty
We are behind in meeting our 2008 ACUPCC commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. Despite this commitment, since 2009 we continued to build new structures on campus and significantly renovate old structures without aiming to achieve carbon neutrality in these designs. Will the university commit to only building net-zero buildings as of today, so commit to a freeze on new buildings? How will the university meet its 2008 commitment, since even with a freeze on new structures we will not meet that commitment?	Faculty
Landscaping	
Will the PSC or BSCE create (or have they created) a study on the economic VALUE of a sustained, resilient campus (healthy soils, diverse tree and plant ecosystem, bird/bee and beneficial insect habitat, low impact buildings designed to be aligned with terroir) such as the Chesapeake Bay Economic Value report (http://www.cbf.org/about-the-bay/issues/cost-of-clean-water/economic-importance-of-the-bay) that would show, as a made up illustration, the Value of a non-traditional lawn = \$250,000 per year in redirected labor and equipment, and in providing Center of Excellence-level outdoor academic "lab" space?	Staff
Would the university consider discontinuing use of chemical weed killers and other pesticides on lawns and athletic fields, in favor of biocontrols and other least-harmful landscape management methods?	Staff
Would the university consider mowing grass less often, and discontinuing the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and weed trimmers?	Staff
Recycling	
Can the University clarify the situation regarding recycling and paper towels on campus? Students are being told that paper towels are no longer recyclable and there is a quite a bit of confusion on that point.	Student
Why do we have recycling bins if they just get poured into the trash anyway? Does it even get recycled at all?	Student
Other	
What is the formal role of the Bucknell Center for Sustainability and the Environment (BCSE) in Bucknell's sustainability initiative?	Staff
Why isn't Bucknell making more use of local farms for food services?	Staff
Given that depending on what one wishes to "sustain," some aspects of sustainability can be mutually incompatible, could the President's Sustainability Council please tell us how the Council defines "sustainability"?	Staff
End	