**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Resolution No. 15*

Author(s): Senator Allison Barnett, Director of Sustainability Trent Scaccia

Sponsor(s): Senator Warrington Sebree and Senator Ben Thornton

**A Resolution to Support Zero Waste and Carbon Neutrality**

Whereas, The University of Arkansas has made a strong commitment to ensuring it is a responsible steward of the environment and has become an active leader in sustainability initiatives within higher education; and

Whereas, Following the signing of the American Colleges and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment Plan in 2007 by the University of Arkansas, which commits the university to reduce its net emissions to zero and achieve a 90% diversion rate of recycled materials by 2040, the University of Arkansas has made great strides in reducing its environmental footprint; and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas achieved its 2021 goal of

 reducing emissions below 1990 levels for the year of 2017

 with roughly 121 tons of CO2 emitted for the year, as

 outlined by the University of Arkansas Climate Action

 Plan[1]; and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas will be able to achieve a

 diversion rate of 46% according to the Zero Waste

 Coordinator, Fischer Jones, which is just shy of its 2021

 recycling goal of a 50% diversion rate as outlined in the UA

 Zero Waste Alignment Goals[1]; and

Whereas, If the University plans to reach its 2040 goals, there is a

 need for further commitment to sustainability in University

 infrastructure, education, administration, and food systems

 to achieve our prescribed sustainability goals; then

Whereas,               The University and the City of Fayetteville community lack

 proper infrastructure for alternative modes of commuting, with

 only 2% of students using bicycle as their mode of commuting

 and only 22% use carbon neutral forms of transportation as

 outlined by the University of Arkansas Campus Transportation

 Plan;

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government recognizes the

 need for action regarding long term emission

 reduction strategies by University of Arkansas

 administration; and further education programs for

 students, faculty, and staff regarding current

 recycling infrastructure are drastically needed to

 achieve our Carbon Neutrality and Zero Waste

 goals; and

Be it further resolved:             The Associated Student Government Undergraduate

 Senate fully supports all solutions outlined by the

 University of Arkansas Campus Transportation Plan

 of increasing commuting by bicycle, ride sharing,

 walking, and other carbon neutral modes of

 transportation; and

Be it further resolved:             The Associated Student Government Undergraduate

 Senate, supports the University administration in

 achieving the intermediary zero waste targets as

 outlined by the UA Zero Waste Alignment Goals;

 and

Be it further resolved:            The Associated Student Government Undergraduate

 Senate, in representing the beliefs of the student

 body is committed to achieving both zero waste and

 carbon neutrality and believes this will create a

 better campus and community for all U of A

 students; and

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government

 Undergraduate Senate, in representing the

 beliefs of the student body is committed to

 achieving both zero waste and carbon

 neutrality; and

Be it further resolved: That ASG Undergraduate Senate will begin to explore all beneficial programs and policies to achieve zero waste and carbon neutrality. Through legislation and education campaigns in tandem with the Office for Sustainability designed to increase awareness and promote change by students, faculty and staff.; and

Be it finally resolved: a copy of this bill be sent to Director of Student Activities Mary Skinner, Director of the Office for Sustainability Eric Boles, Zero Waste Coordinator Fischer Jones, Sustainability Council and all other necessary entities

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Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye 44 Nay 1 Abstentions

Legislation Status: Passed yes Failed­ Other

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Colman Betler, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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Andrew Counce, ASG President Date