**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