**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Resolution No. 8*

Author(s): Senator Katelyn Collinson, Senator Collin Petigna, Director of Sustainability William Motazedi, RIC Director of Sustainability Sophie Hill.

Sponsor(s): Senator Kianna Sarvestani, Senator Jacob Carter, Senator Gabriela Gifford, Senator Katie Gardner, Senator Hope Davenport, Senator Colton Simpson, Senator Cassidy Cook.

**Resolution to Support the Consolidation and Reduction of Waste in the Union Food Court…**

Whereas, Chartwells Higher Ed has made significant improvements to the on-campus dining experience at the University of Arkansas. Notably, substantial food waste reductions have been made and the campus’ carbon footprint continues to decrease as a result of their efforts. Although Chartwells has made considerable strides in the realm of sustainability, there are more improvements to made; and

Whereas, the average landfill waste on the University of Arkansas campus is 162 pounds per person per year. As of 2017, the University of Arkansas is striving to reach its goal of 50% waste diversion from landfills by the year 2021; and

Whereas, the campus’ Sustainability Office recommends “reduction” as the best way to achieve this goal. However, given the new renovations to the Arkansas Union Food Court, the campus is falling short of their goals to reduce waste. This new issue encapsulates higher usage of plastics and non-biodegradable materials from several of the restaurants; and

Whereas Pei Wei has been reported as using a considerable amount of plastic compared to the other vendors. While this is a corporate matter, other on-campus organizations such as Residents’ Interhall Congress and the Office for Sustainability have expressed their dissent towards the plastic usage; then

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate encourages the reduction in the use of redundant and/or unnecessary waste. This includes plastic bags, sauce packets, beverage plastics, and excessive silverware packaging; and

Be it further resolved: The ASG Senate recommends restaurants like Pei Wei provide plastic to-go bags by request only. Additionally, the ASG Senate recommends that individual restaurants consolidate plastic silverware to designated locations where the Union already distributes silverware. Furthermore, we encourage the Union to provide sauce dispensers for non-proprietary condiments such as ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise to cut down on plastic sauce packets; and

Be it further resolved: Other optional non-biodegradable materials such as straws and drink lids be placed alongside existing silverware locations. The ASG Senate encourages Chartwells to consider posting signage and literature concerning the use of plastics and the harmful effects at these designated stations; and

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this resolution will be sent to Andrew Lipson at the Chartwells office and the Office for Sustainability.

*Official Use Only*

Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye 43 Nay 2 Abstentions

Legislation Status: Passed Yes Failed­ Other

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Colman Betler, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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JP Gairhan, ASG President Date