89-UWSR-07

A University-Wide Support Resolution in support of the inclusion of goals dedicated to sustainability in the next University Strategic Plan

Introduced by: Jessica Siemer
Sponsor(s): Senators Iyer & Nicholson
Date Introduced: 04/16/2019
Date Voted On: 4/18/19

Whereas, "[t]he Board of Regents is committed to providing sustainability leadership through responsible stewardship of the state’s natural and physical resources... to advance economic vitality, ecological integrity and social well-being through continuous improvement in campus operations thereby enhancing each institution’s education, research and service missions;”

Whereas, Georgia State University adopted a strategic plan in 2011 with five major goals, one of which is to "[b]ecome a leading public research university addressing the most challenging issues of the 21st century” and another of which is to "[b]e a leader in understanding the complex challenges of cities and developing effective solutions;” and,

Whereas, environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and the health and resiliency of cities in light of environmental challenges such as climate change are major issues of the 21st century and present major challenges for cities; and,

Whereas, Georgia State University is a large energy user in the City of Atlanta using roughly 150,000 MWh/yr, making it one of the top 20 energy users in the city. The University has huge potential to lead by example and to incubate policies and technologies on campus; and,

Whereas, metro Atlanta has the 4th highest electricity burden in the United States. Residents in the three most burdened neighborhoods which are geographically close to GSU’s campus, have an average household income of $36,600 per year with electricity bills averaging $230 per month; and

Whereas, given its location, resources and record of innovation, Georgia State University is positioned to be a leader in sustainability issues; and

Whereas, increasing GSU’s use of energy efficiency, renewables like solar power and energy storage systems can help make the campus and student body more resilient in the face of extreme weather and climate change; and,

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2 Georgia State University, 2011 Strategic Plan, Goal 3, (https://strategic.gsu.edu/preamble-2/goal-3/)
3 Georgia State University, 2011 Strategic Plan, Goal 4, (https://strategic.gsu.edu/preamble-2/goal-4/)
Whereas, other Atlanta area institutions such as Agnes Scott College, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, and Spelman College have made bold commitments to reduce their carbon footprint; and

Whereas, since the years these other institutions have implemented clean energy goals, they have seen a reduction of carbon emissions by up to 24.53 percent; and

Whereas, Georgia State University has incorporated sustainability initiatives into its Master Plan; and

Whereas, Georgia State University has successfully implemented a number of initiatives to reduce its negative environmental impact and to foster student engagement, and a coordinated approach toward regenerative sustainability at an institution-wide level would further these efforts;

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT

Section 1: This resolution shall be known as the "Sustainability Inclusion Support Resolution of 2019".

Section 2: The Student Government Association encourages Georgia State University to incorporate Sustainability Goals into the next iteration of the strategic plan.

Section 3: The Student Government Association encourages Georgia State University to develop policies and procedures to audit energy and water consumption and creates solutions to reduce waste.

Section 4: The Student Government Association encourages Georgia State University to explore initiatives to enhance sustainable transportation to and around its campuses.

Section 5: The Student Government Association encourages Georgia State University to continue to integrate sustainability in its academic programs through continued expansion and support of curriculum related to sustainability issues and the integration of technology and the development of innovative teaching methods to reduce paper waste in the classroom.

Section 6: Sustainability is a priority that is valued highly by the student body.

Section 7: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student Government Association, the welfare, and desire of the students requiring it.

Section 8: Upon passage, this resolution and supporting documents shall be distributed to the Office of the President and the following University Senate Committees: Sustainability, Planning and Development, and Academic Programs.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE: VOTE for 25 against 0 abstentions 1

ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Signature

Date 4/22/19

6 Second Nature Reporting Platform (http://reporting.secondnature.org/)