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Northeastern University

Student Government Association Senate Legislation

Student Government Association

April 01, 2008

SGA & RSA Resolution: Creation of Renewable Energy Fund

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

Resident Student Association, Northeastern University

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CR: SP-08-01

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE STUDENT SENATE AND THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE RESIDENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A STUDENT-GENERATED RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

WHEREAS, President Joseph Aoun, in June of 2007, signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, and appealed to "all faculty, staff and students to take their own individual steps toward making Northeastern an exemplar in sustainability;" **AND**

WHEREAS, The Commitment states: "We further believe that colleges and universities that exert leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities;" **AND**

WHEREAS, The first step of the Commitment requests that universities will "within two years of signing this document, develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral, which will include…actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other [sic] educational experience for all students;" **AND**

WHEREAS, The second step of the Commitment requests that universities will "within one year of signing [the Presidents Climate Commitment], begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of [the] institution's electricity consumption from renewable sources; **AND**

WHEREAS, Voluntary financial contributions from the undergraduate student body will display the support of said students in this initiative; **AND**

WHEREAS, In the spring of 2007, 5,131 Northeastern students signed a petition requesting that Northeastern University commit to "obtaining at least 50% of the university's electricity from renewable sources by 2012;" **AND**

WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the Student Government Association in the spring of 2008 generated 1231 responses, with results showing that 63% of students responding would support a Student-Generated Renewable Energy Fund and 26% of students responding would "maybe" support said Fund; **AND**

WHEREAS, The aforementioned survey produced responses with results showing that the simple mean of the amounts which students were willing to contribute each year supports an annual student contribution in the amount of $30.20; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the University administration and Board of Trustees establish the Renewable Energy Fund as an optional fee applicable to all full-time and part-time students in all divisions; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Renewable Energy Fund be established at a maximum of $30 per academic year, collected in the amounts of $10 per fall and spring semester and $5 per summer semester for which each student is enrolled at Northeastern University; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That each student will have the option to choose whether or not to contribute to the fund at the beginning of each semester for which he or she is enrolled; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Renewable Energy Initiative Committee be established to monitor usage and authorize allocations of any funds generated by the Renewable Energy Fund, and consist of representation from the Student Government Association, the Resident Student Association, the Husky Energy Action Team, students-at-large, and faculty and/or administrative advisors; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Renewable Energy Initiative Committee be chaired by the Vice President for Financial Affairs for the Student Government Association and charged with the authority to modify any policies pertaining to the Fund not stipulated by this legislation; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Renewable Energy Fund Manual be presented for approval in the form of a Joint Legislation by the Student Government Association and the Resident Student Association no later than the final meetings of the spring 2008 semester for both bodies; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the aforementioned manual will specify the purpose of the fund, the composition of the Renewable Energy Initiative Committee, and any and all guidelines and/or appropriate policies stipulated by the approving bodies that will govern the collection, monitoring and allocation of the fund; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Renewable Energy Initiative Committee be authorized to approve any modifications to the Renewable Energy Fund Manual.

Respectfully submitted to the Senate and the General Council,

On behalf of the Student Government Association:

_____
Robert Ranley
Vice President for Financial Affairs
Student Government Association

_____
Jennifer Hardy
Assistant Vice President for Financial Affairs
Student Government Association

Approve:_____
Joey Fiore
President
Student Government Association

Attest:_____
Ashley Benjamin
V.P. for Administration & Public Relations
Student Government Association

Date:
YEA:
NAY:
ABSTAIN:

On behalf of the Resident Student Association:

_____
Matthew D. Soleyn
SGA Representative
Resident Student Association

_____
Dominique McCadden
General Councilor
Resident Student Association

Approve:_____
Mark D. Epstein
President
Resident Student Association

Attest:_____
Katya E. Carman
Vice President for Administration
Resident Student Association

Date:
YEA:
NAY:
ABSTAIN: