

SGA Green Fee Resolution

ACKNOWLEDGING the fact that in today's society we have a huge impact on the environment, and

ALARMED of the overwhelming use of natural resources by Americans in general, and

DESIRING to change the attitudes that we can make a difference at Georgia Southern University, and,

REALIZING that today's innovation provides solutions and options alternative to the burning of fossil fuels:

- a. Conservation and efficiency projects conducted on campus can drive down energy consumption and save the school money in the long run.
- b. Renewable energy credits are available through numerous accredited and certified agencies and institutions.
- c. Available technologies exist (such as Photovoltaic solar panels and solar water heating systems) to implement on-site renewable energy generation; and,

AWARE OF some of Georgia's institutions of higher education that have successfully implemented clean energy practices (University of Georgia, Emory University, Georgia Tech, Valdosta State University) and others are in the process of proactively pursuing more sustainable energy practices (Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Agnes Scott, Georgia College and State University, Savannah College Art Design) including purchasing renewable energy, installing on-site renewable energy generation facilities (solar panels), converting to cleaner sources of transportation, and enacting conservation and efficiency projects; and,

BEARING IN MIND the findings of a survey conducted by a student organization the Student Alliance for a Green Earth in Fall 2007, having received 1,400 responses, which concluded:

- a. 92.8% of those surveyed found the following fact to be very important: According to the EPA, in 2002 Georgia ranked 11th in total deaths a year (946), heart attacks a year (837), and hospitalizations a year (1,352): all being caused from exposure to fine particle pollution caused by coal fired power plants (most of GSU's electricity generation comes from these plants).
- b. 94.9% of students surveyed said it was important or very important to them that GSU switch to "clean, renewable energy".
- c. When surveyed students were asked "how much would you be willing to raise these fees by to help in energy conservation and environmentally friendly designs in buildings and to obtain clean energy sources for campus? the mean answer was \$22.71 with 90.2% of students supporting another fee

IN ADDITION in the of Fall 2008 another survey with 1,400 responses was conducted with a similar question to "c" the mean answer was \$22 with 80% supporting another fee, and,

EMPHASIZING that President Grube has signed the Presidential Climate Commitment declaring our emphasis to be a green campus, and,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Tennessee Board of Regents -- the 6th largest college system in the U.S. -- unanimously approved Sustainable Campus Fees for University of Tennessee System at \$10/semester, and,

HAVING CONSIDERED that Valdosta State, Georgia State and Georgia College and State SGAs have all passed similar resolutions, and many other schools across the nation have passed green fees

CALLS UPON the Georgia Southern University Student Government Senate to implement a Green Fee, and

CALLS UPON the Senate to debate, discuss ranges of a fee proposal, and vote upon a solidified recommendation to President Grube and the Board of Regents a Green Fee for the University System of Georgia.

<http://studentorg.georgiasouthern.edu/sga/minutes.php>