GA 102

NAME

This Resolution Shall Henceforth Be Known As the “Recommendation to the UT System Board of Regents to Renew the Green Fund.”

PURPOSE

To recommend the renewal of the Green Fund by the UT System Board of Regents

WHEREAS: Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution of The University of Texas at San Antonio’s Student Government Association reads: “The duties and responsibilities of the SGA General Assembly shall be: To review, discuss, consider, and take any necessary action through legislation on all issues which concern the campus or students”; and

WHEREAS: In 2009, HB 3353 *Relating to an environmental service fee at public institutions of higher education*¹ was authored by Representative Elliott Naishtat of House District 49 and was signed by the Governor on the 19th of June 2009²; and,

WHEREAS: “The fee may not be charged after the fifth academic year in which the fee is first charged;” and

WHEREAS: “The University of Texas at San Antonio Green Fund is intended to assist the University’s efforts in sustainability”; and

WHEREAS: The University of Texas at San Antonio Green Fund is, in accordance with Texas Education Code Section 54.5041, “may be used only to: (1) provide environmental improvements at the institution through services related to recycling, energy efficiency and renewable energy, transportation, employment, product purchasing, planning and maintenance,

² http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB3353
or irrigation; or (2) provide matching funds for grants to obtain environmental improvement as described by Subdivision (1).

WHEREAS: The University of Texas at San Antonio’s mission states that, “The University of Texas at San Antonio is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through research and discovery, teaching and learning, community engagement and public service. As an institution of access and excellence, UTSA embraces multicultural traditions and serves as a center for intellectual and creative resources as well as a catalyst for socioeconomic development and the commercialization of intellectual property — for Texas, the nation and the world”; and

WHEREAS: The Green Fund has provided The University of Texas at San Antonio opportunities to pursue initiatives in accordance with the university’s mission; and

WHEREAS: The students of The University of Texas at San Antonio have installed hydration stations around the campus for the purpose of wasting less plastic; and

WHEREAS: The students of The University of Texas at San Antonio have established a Spirit Lights program, which was recognized by Mayor Ivy Taylor, and intended to promote former Mayor Julián Castro’s SA2020 vision.

WHEREAS: The students of The University of Texas at San Antonio have revitalized an icon of the institution, the Sombrilla fountain, back on by reusing water from the air conditioning systems in neighborhood buildings; and

WHEREAS: The students of The University of Texas at San Antonio have installed solar powered trash and recycling stations, which compact waste to increase storage capacity of the stations, and decrease the overall volume of trash; and

WHEREAS: The Green Fund has not only provided The University of Texas at San Antonio opportunities to become a more environmentally friendly campus, but it has also provided students the opportunity to pursue innovative initiatives which may not otherwise been afforded to them; and

WHEREAS: The Green Fund has had a financial impact at the University of Texas at San Antonio by:

$500/year saved because of the Sombrilla Fountain Condensate Reclaim.

$1,400/year saved because of the Downtown Campus LED Spirit Lighting project

$7,956.00 saved as a result of using all nineteen of the Big Belly containers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The University of Texas at San Antonio Student Government supports the renewal for the Environmental Service fee, commonly known as the green fee; and therefore,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The University of Texas at San Antonio Student Government further supports the ability for the student body at The University of Texas at San Antonio campus to vote via a referendum whether to reestablish the fee; and therefore,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Allowing the renewal for the green fee to be voted on by the student body allows for self-governance to reestablish the fee if it so chooses; and therefore,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The reestablishment of the green fee would continue to provide students with employment, internships, volunteer activities, educational opportunities related to sustainability and would lower the environmental footprint of The University of Texas at San Antonio; and therefore,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: This resolution is sent to all state legislators who represent the City of San Antonio with this clause omitted from the resolution

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Mr. William McRaven, Chancellor of The University of Texas System; Mr. Paul L. Foster, Chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents; Dr. Ricardo Romo, President of The University of Texas at San Antonio; Mr. Sam Gonzales, Vice-President of Student Affairs of The University of Texas at San Antonio.

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The University of Texas at San Antonio