

Number	AR 2
Title	In Support of Creating a Student Affairs Department for the Campus Environmental Center
Stage	Draft
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[1] Whereas

**Section One: Overview of the Campus Environmental Center**

[2] Whereas

Whereas the Campus Environmental Center (CEC) is an agency of Student Government at the University of Texas at Austin and was created in fall 2002.

[3] Whereas

Whereas the mission of the CEC is to reduce the University's environmental impact and promote environmental stewardship within the student body.

[4] Whereas

Whereas the number of active members of the CEC has grown from approximately 20 in fall 2002 to more than 100 in fall 2005, a growth of 400%.

[5] Whereas

Whereas the CEC recently published a 5 year plan. This plan includes transition towards a department as a principle tenet.

[6] Whereas

Whereas the CEC has created and maintained long-term partnerships with administrators, staff, and students all over campus.

[7] Whereas

**Section Two: Projects within the CEC****[8] Whereas**

Whereas the CEC, with Engineers for a Sustainable World, has formed a committee of students to develop a biodiesel processing facility to turn UT's waste cooking grease into fuel for UT's vehicle fleet.

**[9] Whereas**

Whereas the CEC has initiated an on-campus can and bottle recycling program. The CEC recycling barrels have removed more than five tons of waste since fall 2002.

**[10] Whereas**

Whereas the CEC has created a Dorm EcoReps program consisting of dorm residents that educate fellow residents about recycling, litter, consumption, energy, water, and transportation in order to help reduce resource use in the dorms.

**[11] Whereas**

Whereas the CEC events committee plans a yearly environmental conference (the Earth Summit) and two fun festivals (for America Recycles Day in the fall and Earth Day in the spring).

**[12] Whereas**

Whereas the CEC's gardening committee maintains a student-run garden near the Harry Ransom Center and partners with UT Landscaping Services to plant greenery around campus, including maintaining the trellises at 24<sup>th</sup> and San Jacinto and planting fruit trees near the Brazos Parking Garage.

**[13] Whereas**

Whereas the UT Green Building Association, a committee of the CEC, holds educational events and advocates for green design standards for UT's new building projects.

**[14] Whereas**

Whereas the CEC's Ink Cartridge Recycling Committee runs a campus-wide program to recycle ink and toner cartridges and thereby raise money for more environmental projects.

**[15] Whereas**

Whereas the CEC's Litter Committee runs the Adopt-an-Acre program, where student groups volunteer to clean up campus, and encourages students not to litter. The Committee also coordinates an annual Beautiful U Day campus-wide cleanup each spring.

[16] **Whereas**

Whereas the CFC, with Engineers for a Sustainable World, has created a Student Energy Task Force which has completed and submitted a study of energy saving devices on campus as well as conducted campus-wide energy conservation education. Based on the energy saving guidelines submitted to date, the University of Texas at Austin can save an additional \$30,000 per year.

[17] **Whereas**

Whereas the CEC committee Students for a Sustainable Campus works with administrators to address a variety of campus environmental issues and educates students on the importance of a sustainable and environmentally-friendly campus. They are currently working on encouraging UT to adopt a sustainability policy.

[18] **Whereas**

Whereas the CFC Sustainable Food Committee is working with the Division of Housing and Food Service to purchase more local food for use in the dining halls. They are also promoting fair trade coffee, researching composting options for UT waste, and educating students about the benefits of buying local food.

[19] **Whereas**

Whereas the CEC facilitates the Staff Sustainability Network, which informs UT staff how to reduce their impact at work.

[20] **Whereas**

Whereas the CEC runs a Trash to Treasure program which is a very large good recycling program. Through the program, the CEC collects donations from students during move out, stores them over the summer, and then recycles them in a campus-wide garage sale in August. The CEC's 2005 Trash to Treasure project raised \$5,800.

[21] **Whereas**

**Section Three: Success as an Agency of Student Government**

[22] **Whereas**

Whereas the CEC has initiated a leadership training course entitled Leadership Towards a Sustainable World,

[23] **Whereas**

Whereas the CEC has developed an extensive website including a list of media coverage, a job and internship database, a scholarship and grant resource list, a list of sustainability classes taught at UT, resources for other students to start an environmental center at their school and recommendations for individuals to reduce their personal environmental impact.

[24] **Whereas**

Whereas the CEC has developed a working leadership structure which currently includes one director, two assistant directors, an advisor, 28 officers, and 15 committees, programs, or task forces.

[25] **Whereas**

**Section Four: Success on Campus**

[26] **Whereas**

Whereas the CEC is coordinating a Partners for the Campus Environment program which is a network of student organizations that support several environmental initiatives at UT.

[27] **Whereas**

Whereas the # # # # organizations that have signed up agree to make a concrete connection to the Campus Environmental Center. This connection benefits both organizations, as the CEC helps organizations with recycling and running low-waste events, and organizations can help the CEC spread the word about big campus environmental initiatives.

[28] **Whereas**

Whereas in the Fall of 2005, the CEC made contact with 1,000 affiliate members on campus.

[29] **Whereas**

Whereas the Office of the Vice President of Employee and Campus Services has worked with the CEC to provide a venue for CEC leaders to ensure the continuing success of on campus programs and initiatives.

**[30] Whereas**

Whereas members of the CEC sit on the Ad-Hoc Campus Sustainability Committee which brings together students, faculty, and staff to collaborate and share information on campus sustainability issues.

**Comments****Footnotes**

Number	AB 5
Title	Exempting the Campus Environmental Center from Article V Section 4 of the Student Government Bylaws for the Student Government term beginning immediately and ending in April 2007
Stage	Draft
Owner	Michael Windle
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### [1] Exemption

Article V Section 4 of the Student Government Bylaws States:

Section 4: Each Student Government officer and agency head is eligible to receive an annual stipend not to exceed 3/5 of that of the Student Government President.

The Campus Environmental Center is pursuing a transition to become a Student Affairs Department under the Office of the Dean of Students. Through this process, the Campus Environmental Center has created work groups consisting of University of Texas at Austin students, faculty, and staff, as well as City of Austin employees. The Campus Environmental Center has worked with the Office of the Dean of Students and plans to continue building that relationship throughout the future.

This bill exempts the Campus Environmental Center from maximum limitations on stipend amounts for agency directors. Passage of this bill allows funds raised by the Campus Environment Center to be spent towards ensuring fulfillment of commitments with the University.

Upon the first meeting of the 2007-2008 Student Government assembly in April of 2007, this effect of this bill dissolves.

## Comments

## Footnotes