

Passed 11/26/04

0 **AR: 19**1 **Title: Energy Conservation at the University of Texas at Austin**2 **Stage:** IN SESSION - 11/17/20033 **Owner:** Rachel McGinity

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6 **Whereas**

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9 **Whereas**

10 a scientific consensus has emerged, namely the International Panel on
11 Climate Change's (IPCC) latest report on climate change released in 2001,
12 affirming that "greenhouse" gases released into our atmosphere will have a
13 profoundly negative effect on the Earth's climate. The result is increased
14 global temperatures, increased frequency in hurricanes, more severe
15 thunderstorm patterns, droughts, change in agricultural production, and
16 higher sea levels causing an increased number of floods and losses of land;
17 and
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20 **Whereas**

21 all of these adverse effects on the climate pose significant risks to both
22 natural ecosystems and human societies, through an increase in the rates of
23 infectious diseases, respiratory illnesses and extinction of various animal
24 species; and
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27 **Whereas**

28 the Talloires Declaration of 1990, an official statement signed by over 300
29 universities made by administrators affirming a commitment for
30 environmental sustainability in higher education and articulating the urgency
31 of our environmental problems which include local, regional, and global air
32 and water pollution, accumulation and distribution of toxic wastes,
33 destruction and depletion of forests, soil, and water, and depletion of the
34 ozone layer and emission of "greenhouse" gases
(Source: www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html); and
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40 **Whereas**

41 colleges, universities, and institutions of higher learning can take a leading
42 role to shift society's practices and the nation's economy toward solutions to
43 move toward sustainability; and
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48 **Whereas**

49 the use of natural gas for energy production results in many other forms of
50 pollution, such as smog, acid rain, water pollution, and land destruction; and
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53 **Whereas**

energy efficiency measures can greatly reduce energy costs, saving money
for The University of Texas in a time of financial hardship; and

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54 Whereas

55 The U.S. Green Building Council developed the Leadership in Energy and
56 Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System as a voluntary,
57 consensus-based, market-driven building rating system based on existing
58 proven technology that evaluates environmental performance from a “whole
59 building” perspective over a building’s life cycle, providing a definitive
60 standard for what constitutes a “green building” with the convergence of the
61 primary objectives: implementing high energy/water efficiency, conserving
62 natural resources, and creating a healthy indoor environment, all resulting in
63 substantially lower operating, maintenance, and healthcare expenses, higher
64 levels of student productivity and a reduced impact the environment
65 (Sources: www.usgbc.org, www.buildinggreen.com, www.greenbuild.com);
66 and

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69 Whereas

70 LEED Silver rated buildings may cost no more than non-LEED buildings
71 when the appropriate design concepts, technologies, and materials are
72 incorporated at the beginning of the design process (Source:
73 www.rmi.org/images/other/GDS-WhyBuildGreen.pdf); and

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77 Whereas

78 a number of universities across the nation implementing green building
79 practices will send a signal to the federal government and private industry
80 that global warming/climate change are serious and very real issues; and

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82 Whereas

83 campuses across the country such as Emory University, Brown University,
84 the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Wisconsin at
85 Madison have implemented green building practices on their campus.

86

87 Whereas

88 the entire University of California System has passed a comprehensive Green
89 Building and Clean Energy Standard that mandates 10 MW (equivalent to the
90 power used by 5000 homes) of on-site renewable energy to be installed
91 across the 10 campuses, the immediate purchase of 10% of the university’s
92 utility purchased from clean energy resources, and all new campus building
93 across the state built to LEED standards; and

94

95 Whereas

96 UT students, faculty, administration, and campus organizations such as
97 Environmental Outreach, Sustainable Building Coalition, Public Citizen on
98 Campus have shown concern about climate change and its effects on the
99 environment and our public health, rising tuition and energy costs; and

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103 Whereas

104 The Clean Energy Incubator, a research institute on campus directed by
105 Richard Amato, supports the study of efficiency and renewable energy usage
106 on campus; and

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108 Whereas

109 the McCombs School of Business MBA Program is capable of organizing a
110 graduate student research class designed to study the implementation of
111 renewable energy on the UT campus for a semester at no extra cost to the
112 students of the University of Texas at Austin; and

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116 Whereas

117 the University of Texas at Austin is the leading public education institution
118 for research and development in the state, with a tremendous influence over
119 environmental, economic, and social policies.

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123 Be It Resolved

124 that the Student Body Government of The University of Texas at Austin
125 encourages President Faulkner to ratify the Talloires Declaration and allow
126 the flagship university of the Texas System, the University of Texas at
127 Austin, to take its place among forward-thinking campuses dedicated to
128 improving their universities impact on the environment.

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Be It Resolved

that the Student Government at the University of Texas at Austin commends
the Department of Utilities for ongoing efforts to reduce energy usage
including a lighting upgrade from incandescent to fluorescent bulbs and light
sensors.

Be It Resolved

that the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin encourages
the Department of Utilities to further reduce emissions through efficiency
measures, such as a switch from pneumatic to digital thermostats and energy
meters in all new and renovated buildings.

Be It Resolved

that the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin supports
the study of opportunities to use renewable energy on campus, the results of
which shall be presented to the administration at the University of Texas at
Austin no later than April 2004.

Be It Resolved

that the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin urges the
University Administration to implement a pilot program analyzing the
potential benefits of using LEED standards in the design of a new building or
renovation of an existing building on our campus to accomplish two goals: an
over all critique of the LEED standards themselves and to determine which
green buildings methods could be beneficial to our university's future.

Whereas

Footnotes

None

Comments

None

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Sponsors

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