Title: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF THE CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY FUND

Sponsored by: Jake Faleschini (President), Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President), Lindsay Morse (Secretary), Shawn Mincer (Social Work), Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences)
Written by: Katie Stultz (Campus Sustainability Fund Working Group Member)
Resolution Number: 04.09-10

WHEREAS the GPSS Legislative Agenda states that “The GPSS supports efforts to increase environmental stewardship and sustainability on campus;”[1] and

WHEREAS the Campus Sustainability Fund’s mission statement is to “create a sustainable campus and foster an environmentally conscious university culture by funding student-led projects that improve the university’s environmental impact;”[2] and

WHEREAS “the University of Washington, through President Emmert, is a founding signatory to the American College & University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC),[3] and is committed to developing an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral;”[4] and

WHEREAS the Climate Action Plan commits the University of Washington to reach carbon neutrality by the year 2050;[5] and

WHEREAS the Climate Action Plan recommends the creation of a student fee as a possible mechanism to fund campus sustainability projects;[6] and

WHEREAS as of May 2009, there are 62 currently active student funded sustainability funds at other world-class institutions of higher learning nationwide;[7] and

WHEREAS “the EPA announced that greenhouse gases threaten public health and welfare of the American people,” and “scientific consensus shows that as a result of human activities, GHG [greenhouse gases] concentrations in the atmosphere are at record high levels;”[8] and

WHEREAS the University of Washington emits over 220,000 pounds of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide,[9] which was recently found detrimental to human health by the United States Environmental Protection Agency[2]; and

WHEREAS 46% of waste from the UW goes directly to landfills;[11] and

WHEREAS the University of Washington uses 1,037 gallons of water per gross square foot of campus per day,[12] and
WHEREAS the Campus Sustainability Fund Working Group proposes that the fund be created under the Services and Activities Fee, as it is the most democratic, accountable and transparent method for instituting such a fund; and

WHEREAS the Services and Activities Fee funds invaluable student programs such as the Associated Students of the University of Washington, Childcare Assistance Program, Classroom Support Services, Counseling Center, Ethnic Cultural Center and Theater Complex, Graduate and Professional Student Senate, Hall Health Primary Care Center, Q Center, Recreational Sports Programs, Services and Activities Fee Committee, Student Activities and Union Facilities, Student Legal Services, and Student Publications;[13] and

WHEREAS the Campus Sustainability Fund Working Group has thus far collected over 2,500 signatures of support, over 28 endorsements from registered student organizations, and will continue to outreach to groups on campus to garner student support and awareness for the proposal; and

WHEREAS the Campus Sustainability Fund Working Group and the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability has currently collected over 80 project proposals from students, faculty and staff amounting to over $2,500,000, showing a current demand for the fund; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT the GPSS supports the creation of the Campus Sustainability Fund under the structure proposed by the Campus Sustainability Fund Working Group through an increase and/or re-allocation of the student Services and Activities Fee; and

THAT a copy of this legislation be sent to UW President Mark Emmert, Vice President and Vice Provost for Student Life Eric Godfrey, all members of the Services and Activities Fee Committee, GPSS President Jake Faleschini, and ASUW President Tim Mensing.

Presented to GPSS Senate and approved on March 3, 2010, with 69 votes in favor, 2 opposed, and 6 abstentions.