

1 Title: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A UNIVERSAL U-PASS MODEL.**

2
3 Sponsored by: Shawn L. Mincer (Secretary), Charles Plummer (Earth and Space
4 Sciences) and Sarah Reyneveld (President)

5 Written by: Shawn L. Mincer (Secretary), Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences)
6 and Sarah Reyneveld (President)

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8 Resolution Number: 10.27-11

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10 WHEREAS the current funding model is unsustainable and a new funding model for the
11 U-PASS has become necessary; and

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13 WHEREAS the University of Washington (UW) has been an early and consistent leader
14 nationally in developing sustainable transportation options for the university community
15 and the U-PASS has provided affordable transportation to the University of Washington
16 since 1991; and

17 WHEREAS the availability of the U-PASS has prevented an estimated 61% increase in
18 University associated traffic in the University Districtⁱ despite growth of the student
19 populations specifically, and the density of the neighborhood generally. This reduction in
20 car trips has meant that the average UW Seattle commuter emits 30% less carbon than the
21 average commuter in our regionⁱⁱ; and

22 WHEREAS Washington State's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Law, RCW 70.94.521-
23 551, directs state agencies in King and other counties to decrease vehicular travel and
24 limit SOV use and in 2008 the Puget Sound Regional Council highlighted the U-PASS
25 system as a successful example of Transportation Demand Management (TDM); and

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27 WHEREAS many University of Washington graduate and professional students rely on
28 transportation provided by the U-PASS to access education, employment and leisure
29 activities, especially with the majority of students living off-campus; and

30 WHEREAS due to funding limitations, the price of the U-PASS was forced to rise nearly
31 one hundred percent just two years ago from \$50 to \$99 and student participation fell
32 from 83% to 66%; and

33 WHEREAS a change in the funding model of the U-PASS is necessary to the long-term
34 viability of such a program; and

35 WHEREAS the U-PASS is an integrated, multimodal solution that supports the full range
36 of green transportation option; and

37 WHEREAS in Spring Quarter 2010 the Student Transportation Taskforce conducted a
38 survey offered to all students faculty and staff at the University of Washington that
39 received over 14,000 responses; and

40 WHEREAS of all the students who responded to the survey, 92% of all graduate
41 students, 79% of all of the students, and 53% of students who did not use U-PASS

42 supported a Universal U-PASS model that would provide a U-PASS to all students on the
43 condition that the price is guaranteed to remain between \$60 and \$80 for at least two
44 years.

45 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL
46 STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

47 THAT the GPSS supports the implementation of a Universal UPASS Model to assure the
48 continued viability and success of the UPASS program; and

49 THAT the GPSS commends UW Transportation Services for their leadership and their
50 commitment to UPASS; and

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52 THAT the GPSS Executive Committee and University of Washington Board of Regents
53 explore implementation of the proposed Universal U-PASS outlined in the 2010 Student
54 Transportation Taskforce survey; and

55 THAT the Puget Sound regional transit partners to U-PASS provide a predictable, fair
56 method of calculating costs for students in exchange for guaranteed student participation
57 in the U-PASS program; and

58 THAT the Graduate and Professional Student Senate reserve the right to withdraw from
59 the Universal U-PASS program through vote of the Senate if Puget Sound regional transit
60 partners fail to adhere to a predictable, fair method of calculating costs for students in
61 exchange for guaranteed student participation in the U-PASS program.

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63 THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the University Board of Regents, Interim
64 President Phyllis Wise, Interim Provost Mary Lidstrom, Dean Jerry Baldasty, UW
65 Director of Transportation Josh Kavanagh, Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle City Council,
66 and the Puget Sound regional transit partners of U-PASS.

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68 *Presented to GPSS for approval on November 3, 2011.*

69 *Approved on*

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ⁱ University of Washington Transportation Services

ⁱⁱ U-PASS Profile (UW Department of Transportation Services)