



Resolution To Support Sustainability Efforts on Campus

Author(s):

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Sponsoring Senator(s):

Joshua Feingold, At-Large Senator

Bre'Arra Long, Academics Committee Chair

Arissa Lelevier, Student Life Committee Chair

Lily Giovannelli, Speaker Pro-Tempore

Date: Thursday, May 11th, 2023

WHEREAS, the University of San Diego has already demonstrated an extensive commitment to sustainable practices and the health of our common home, in line with its Mission, Vision and Values as a Catholic institution committed to creating a Changemaker Campus to confront humanity's urgent challenges. Specifically, the USD also reaffirmed its commitment to Pope Francis' call to action in *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* especially through its 2016 Climate Action Plan (or CAP), which set the goal of reducing the University's 'greenhouse gas' emissions by 50% by 2035. Soon after, in 2019, the University also established the goal of carbon neutrality by the year 2035.

WHEREAS, as a part of and in order to facilitate the goals of the CAP, the University commissioned and adopted a wide-reaching Energy Master Plan (EMP), which contains recommendations for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve facility performance.¹

¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nIBK4M4lsepYaX8kVti4s9YPyDjH950C/view>



WHEREAS, the University has already seen success in implementing many aspects of the EMP, such as outfitting existing buildings with solar panels and taking measures to improve their energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

WHEREAS, the University has also undertaken various other further measures towards sustainability, such as the requirement of a LEED certification of Silver for all new buildings constructed, as certified by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). Within this system, points are awarded for fulfilling specific requirements in a variety of categories, such as Sustainable Sites and Materials and Resources.² LEED Silver is awarded when 50-59 points³ are earned within this rating system.

WHEREAS, the University's latest building project, the Wellness Building, went through a full design and approval process and has begun construction, without solar panels being included in the design or plans for the building, despite evident available space on its roof.

WHEREAS, this represents a missed opportunity to continue to fulfill the University's mission, vision, and values and to support its ambitious Climate Action plan through the adoption of readily available sustainable resources and practices.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Student Government strongly recommends that the new Wellness Building receive appropriate solar outfitting, as implemented on other buildings on campus, within 2 years of the completion of its construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that greater direct financial burden not be imposed on students (current or future) as a result of this improvement, such as by an increase in fees associated with the Wellness Building, and that existing budgets such as that of the Office of Facilities and Management finance the purchase and installation of these solar panels, as provided for within the purview of both the CAP and the EMP.

² https://storage.pardot.com/413862/1682356865jB9JA5I5/LEED_v4.1_BD_C_Guide_for_April_2023.pdf
Reference pages 6 and 7 for an overview of points that can be awarded within different categories

³ https://www.usgbc.org/leed?utm_medium=ppc&gclid=CjwKCAjwxr2iBhBJEiwAdXECw43U29oXfeCEYMky0KmNv_Vmix5v5JLj4RW2anvdoatOLvo9XGpY2hoCsvkQAvD_BwE



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Associated Student Government supports the University of San Diego in taking every available measure to follow both the recommendations of the EMP and attain the goals of the CAP, including expanding solar capabilities on existing buildings as provided for in the EMP, with the goal of obtaining full carbon neutrality by 2035.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Associated Student Government requests that all future building projects by the University of San Diego also be required to provide plans for the incorporation of solar panels in the structure (to be installed concurrent to or immediately after construction), during their design and approval process, and that further options for the incorporation of renewable energy in the design and construction of new buildings also be explored.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Associated Student Government recommends that the University of San Diego pursue a LEED gold certification on all future campus construction projects (buildings or renovations),⁴ and that every further opportunity to incorporate sustainable architecture into the University campus in existing and future buildings be explored.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be delivered to the following individuals for comment and action:

Dr. James T. Harris, *President, University of San Diego*; Dr. Gail Baker, *Senior Vice President and Provost*; Dr. Andrew Allen, *Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives*; Ms. Charlotte Johnson, *Vice President for Student Affairs*; Dr. Michael Lovette-Colyer, *Vice President of Mission Integration*; Ms. Katy Roig, *Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer*; Mr. Tom Skinner, *General Counsel and Advisor to the President*; Mr. Ky Snyder, *Vice President of University Operations*; Mr. Richard P. Virgin, *Vice President of University Advancement*; Dr. Christopher Burden, *Vice President of Wellness*; Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves, *Vice Provost, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*; Dr. Byron Howlett, *Vice President for Student Life*; Dr. Nicole Whitner, *Vice President and Dean of Students*; Zachary Randell, *Director of Planning, Design and Construction*; Mr. Andre

⁴ If fees associated with a further official certification from USGBC exist and are deemed not financially viable, buildings can still be built according to the guidelines laid out by USGBC and certified internally.



Hutchison, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management; Mr. John Alejandro, Director of Sustainability; Ms. Suzanne Stanford, *Chair of the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees*; The Board of Trustees of the University of San Diego

Sean Pala

May 25, 2023

Sean Pala, Sustainability Coordinator
Author

Date

Andres Fernandez

July 11, 2023

Andres Fernandez Perez, The Associated Student Government Speaker of the Senate
Date

Melissa Joy Tumlos

May 24, 2023

Melissa Joy Tumlos, The President of the Associated Student Government

Date

