Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

A Resolution Supporting the University of Arkansas becoming a Fair Trade Institution

Whereas, According to the World Fair Trade Organization, “Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency, and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers.”

Whereas, There are over 2,000 Fair Trade producer organizations in more than 70 countries around the world.

Whereas, What people choose to purchase and consume impacts farmers, workers, artisans and the environment.

Whereas, Growers of coffee, tea, chocolate and other products produced in Latin America, Africa, and Asia are often paid less than a living wage, and forced child labor is likely involved;

Whereas, Conventional means of growing coffee and other commodities are often damaging to the environment, harming local ecosystems, and do not provide workers with appropriate living wages;

Whereas, There are tens of thousands of Fair Trade products on the market, including coffee, tea, chocolate, flowers, fruits and vegetables, grains, apparel, artisan crafts, and more.

Whereas, The University of Arkansas has the means to access these fair trade products;

Whereas, Fair Trade ensures fair wages, promotes fair labor conditions, fosters direct trading relationships, promotes
democratic and transparent organizations, encourages community development and environmental sustainability;

Whereas, By becoming a Fair Trade University, University of Arkansas will demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability, equal wage policies, and social justice;

Whereas, By becoming a Fair Trade University, University of Arkansas will more effectively educate the campus community about Fair Trade;

Whereas, By becoming a Fair Trade University, University of Arkansas will inspire other institutions and organizations to support Fair Trade;

Whereas, By becoming a Fair Trade University, University of Arkansas will enhance its image as a leader in sustainability and social justice issues;

Whereas, The University of Arkansas Office for Sustainability endorses this campaign and resolution, as it is in line with the Office for Sustainability’s missions and goals;

Be it therefore resolved: Associated Student Government Senate encourages the University to work with Chartwells to make Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and other Fair Trade products available in its dining facilities, consistent with the terms of food service contracts and where the resulting costs do not significantly alter board rate costs.

Be it further resolved: Associated Student Government Senate encourages the University to work with Chartwells to make Fair Trade products available at catered meetings hosted by the school, consistent with the terms of the food service contract.

Be it further resolved: Associated Student Government Senate encourages the University to offer Fair Trade products, apparel and handicrafts (such as jewelry and other gift items) in campus stores
whenever possible and subject to the terms of vendor contracts.

Be it further resolved: Associated Student Government Senate encourages the University to support students, staff and faculty working to increase on campus awareness of Fair Trade through events, the incorporation of Fair Trade into curriculum, and other efforts.

Be it further resolved: Associated Student Government Senate encourages the University to commit itself to explore the incorporation of Fair Trade procurement into current purchasing practices and policies

Be it further resolved: Associated Student Government Senate encourages the University in consultation with the Fair Trade Committee to oversee the implementation of the above commitments within six months of the ratification of this document;

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this legislation be sent to Eric Boles, Director of Sustainability, Andrew Lipson, Resident District Manager of Chartwells, Lynne Bell, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Services, and Charles F. Robinson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Amendments: ______________________________

Vote Count: Aye 47   Nay 3   Abstentions ______

Legislation Status: Passed x   Failed _____   Other _______

Kianna Sarvestani, ASG Chair of the Senate

Jared Pinkerton, ASG President

11/21/11

11-21-2014