

A RESOLUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KENTUCKY, REQUESTS A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS AND EFFORTS ON CAMPUS

WHEREAS: In recent years, NKU has been put through strenuous budget cuts that have forced the university to cut back on programs and departments throughout campus, and

WHEREAS: The University defines sustainability as, “the practice of shared stewardship of resources, both natural and man-made, to create and maintain healthful, equitable, livable, and fiscally responsible communities both locally and globally. Environmental sustainability is the responsibility of all members of the campus community and is fundamental to the University’s mission of education, scholarship, and engagement”, and

WHEREAS: One of the major cuts for sustainability on campus was the position of sustainability manager, the person in charge of outreach to the community, organizing events on campus, and collaborating with other departments and organizations, and

WHEREAS: Since this position was eliminated, many of these efforts on campus have stagnated with no one being placed in charge of them in the near future, and

WHEREAS: The 2017 NKU Sustainability Strategy was written to create a 5-year plan for our sustainability efforts. Since the sustainability manager position was eliminated there hasn’t been much follow-up on this plan and no further meetings of FUSE, the committee formed of students, faculty and staff to evaluate progress and brainstorm sustainable solutions to issues on campus, and

WHEREAS: Recent investigation into recycling practices on campus has shown miscommunication between departments and serious shortcomings in recycling collection, putting a hold on projects like the recycling center at East Village that ACR petitioned for earlier this year, and

WHEREAS: Administration is working to create a single-stream recycling program for all of campus, but there isn’t much funding available to cover the annual cost of collection and changes may need to wait until our current contract with Rumpke is up, and

WHEREAS: Becki Lanter, NKU’s Director of Operations and Maintenance, has discussed how the university is working to hybridize the sustainability manager position with a current facilities management job, but that may not effectively cover all of these responsibilities, and

WHEREAS: Lanter also said that students were a huge part in creating change in the department and that many of the sustainability projects were started because of student initiative and research, and that many projects cannot be completed due to a lack of staff, and

WHEREAS: Student impact could take many forms, from offering service hours for students working with facilities on projects, to encouraging paid research opportunities for students on campus, to training students on sustainable practices to act as ambassadors to lead workshops or other events, and

WHEREAS: If NKU cannot find the budget to have someone lead these efforts or invest in our infrastructure, then creative solutions should be found to handle communication between departments, students, and organizations on campus to continue making progress environmentally, and

WHEREAS: Partnerships with outside organizations can lead to opportunities for students, sources of funding, brand recognition and stronger community ties. Forming a relationship based on sustainability could ignite interest in the subject and create a spur of new energy for projects on campus, and

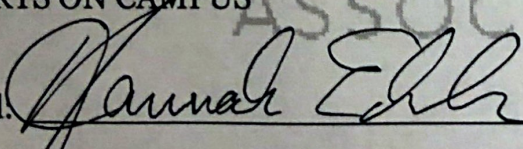
WHEREAS: The Environmental Science department already partners with a number of smaller, local organizations to give students career opportunities and collaborate on projects, and

WHEREAS: Creating a partnership with a larger organization could have a campus-wide impact and demonstrate NKU's commitment to sustainable practices on campus and in the community, and

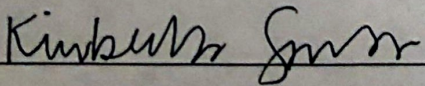
WHEREAS: With stronger community ties we can advocate and stay informed on environmental issues affecting the NKY region such as a lack of composting facilities, and

WHEREAS: NKU has a responsibility to both its students and its staff to find ways to innovate in sustainability to address the concerns of our environmental impact as a community, and to communicate our current efforts accurately.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, ON THIS FIFTEENTH DAY OF APRIL 2019 THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY REQUESTS A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS AND EFFORTS ON CAMPUS

Signed. 

Hannah Maria Edelen, President

Attest: 

Kimberly Christine Sparks, Senator