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S.R. 2016-2017.09

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A Resolution-

1 **To be known as "A Resolution Calling for an Increase in Texas State**
2 **University's Environmental Student Fee from \$1 to \$2,"" which would**
3 **increase the amount of funds available to students for environmental**
4 **projects that preserve the beauty of our campus and create a**
5 **sustainable campus community.**

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6 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University is a thriving institution that
7 continues to experience rapid growth and expansion in
8 student population yearly; and

9 **WHEREAS:** One of the main attractions of Texas State is the beautiful
10 wildlife and natural scenery that defines our campus; and

11 **WHEREAS:** As necessary construction and other projects accommodate
12 for this growth and expansion, it is important that we
13 continue efforts to preserve the natural aspect of this
14 beautiful campus; and

15 **WHEREAS:** Texas State students are innovative and act as agents of
16 change that promote responsible growth and sustainability
17 in our campus community; and

18 **WHEREAS:** The Environmental Service Fee was created by Senate Bill
19 1230, passed by the Senate of the 78th Legislature of the
20 State of Texas on May 12, 2003 and by the Texas House of
21 Representatives of the same Legislature on May 28, 2003.
22 The act was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry on June
23 21, 2003 and went into effect September 1 of the same year;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS:** In the Environmental Service Committee Bylaws under Article
26 III titled "Purpose" it is stated that The Environmental
27 Student Service fee was established by Student Government
28 and the Texas Legislature to support a broad range of
29 topics such as environmental education, recycling,

30 transportation, employment, product purchasing,
31 distributing small grants or matching funds,
32 planning/maintenance, beautification, and irrigation; and

33 **WHEREAS:** Senate Bill 1230 lines 7 through 15 currently state,
34 "Sec.54.5111. Environmental Service Fee; SOUTHWEST TEXAS
35 STATE UNIVERSITY. (a) The board of regents of Texas State
36 University System may charge each student enrolled at
37 Southwest Texas State University an environmental service
38 fee in an initial amount not to exceed 1\$ per semester of
39 the regular term or term of the summer session. The fee may
40 not be imposed unless approved by a majority vote of the
41 student body at the university voting in an election held
42 for that purpose at the same time using the same ballot as
43 a student government election;" and

44 **WHEREAS:** This referendum serves to specifically amend line 11 from
45 the "amount may not exceed 1\$ per semester of the regular
46 term or term of the summer session" to read: the "amount
47 may not exceed 2\$ per semester of the regular term or term
48 of the summer session;" and

49 **WHEREAS:** As our student population and campus community continue to
50 experience record growth, so should our responsibility to
51 maintain our campus environment, improve beautification
52 efforts and increase campus sustainability; and

53 **WHEREAS:** The current Environmental Student Service fee is only 1\$and
54 does not accurately reflect the expansion Texas State University has
55 experienced; and

56 **WHEREAS:** The Environmental Service Fee has proven to be effective as
57 it has funded a wide variety of projects such as Bobcat
58 Blend, Water Bottle Refill Stations, The Bike Cave, Pack It
59 Up and Pass It On, San Marcos River Cleanups, Texas Wild
60 Rice Festival, UPD Bike Projects, and the Stadium Recycling
61 program; and

62 **WHEREAS:** Per Student Affairs Policies and Procedures for conducting
63 Student Referendums, the Student Body President has the
64 authority to issue a referendum to the student body in
65 order to call for an increase in the Student Environmental
66 Service Fee, with 2/3 approval of the Senate; therefore

67 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That Student Government supports an Environmental
68 Service Fee increase of \$1 for the purpose of
69 preserving our campus environment, sustainability
70 projects, and beautification efforts; and

71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the \$1 increase be effective Fall of
72 2017; and

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage, the Student Body
74 President call for a referendum for the
75 proposed fee increase from 1\$ to 2\$; and

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon the call for the referendum, the
77 Student Government Director of Marketing
78 and the Public Relations Officer coordinate
79 with the Dean of Students Office to release

80 information and publicize the referendum to
81 the student body through both print and
82 electronic media; and

83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the release of information and
84 publicity be done at least ten (10) days
85 before the referendum vote; and

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage, this piece of
87 legislation be forwarded to Student Body
88 President Andrew Homann for further action.