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S.R. 2019.2020.27

Date of First Reading: November 25, 2019

A Resolution-

To be entitled - "A Resolution in Support of Adding Part-Time Staff for Bobcat Blend" which requests that the university administration hire a part-time Bobcat Blend technician to service and operate the Bobcat Blend composting facility and the Bobcat Blend vermiculture facility.

- 1 **WHEREAS:** Food waste which is not properly disposed of ends up
2 in landfills, where it is buried, deprived of oxygen, and
3 eventually produces methane gas, which is one of the most
4 potent greenhouse gases on Earth; and
5
6 **WHEREAS:** A study by the International Energy Agency in 2012
7 listed food waste as being responsible for 8.2% of

8 global greenhouse gas emissions, which is comparable to the
9 10.1% of emissions produced by vehicular road
10 transportation¹; and

11
12 **WHEREAS:** According to figures released by the Food and
13 Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2014 and
14 2015 food waste accounts for about 4.4 gigatons of
15 greenhouse gas emissions per year²; and

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17 **WHEREAS:** If food waste was its own country it would be the
18 third-largest emitter of greenhouse gasses in the world³;
19 and

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21 **WHEREAS:** According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
22 tossed out edible food scraps are the single biggest
23 component of waste in landfills today⁴; and

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25 **WHEREAS:** The amount of landfilled edible municipal solid waste
26 in the United States has more than doubled from 1960 to
27 2015 - 12 million tons of edible MSW in 1960 to 30 million
28 tons in 2015⁵; and

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¹ https://doi.org/10.1787/co2_fuel-2014-en

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bb144e.pdf>

³ <https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/whats-food-loss-and-waste-got-do-climate-change-lot-actually>

⁴ <https://hillviews.txstate.edu/issues/2017/a-taste-of-texas-state/bobcat-blend.html>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/food-material-specific-data>

30 **WHEREAS:** Bobcat Blend is a student run, research and teaching
31 oriented campus composting program, which raises awareness
32 about the intrinsic value of composting, while helping
33 students, faculty, and staff develop environmentally and
34 economically sustainable habits and ensuring that the
35 university as a whole takes a responsible approach toward
36 waste management; and

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38 **WHEREAS:** Since the removal of post-consumer compost bins and
39 shadow boxes in Texas State dining halls, Bobcat Blend has
40 been entirely unable to process post-consumer compostable
41 waste, which makes up a significant proportion of food
42 waste which is improperly disposed of and ends up in
43 landfills; and

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45 **WHEREAS:** The cost of compensating all the students who are
46 trained to operate composting facilities at Texas State is
47 approx. \$40,000/year (according to Dr. Tina Cade, Bobcat
48 Blend faculty manager) and this cost cannot be entirely
49 covered by the \$1 Environmental Sustainability Fee paid by
50 Texas State Students; and

51

52 **WHEREAS:** The constant need to train new students to operate and
53 manage composting facilities significantly affects the
54 efficiency with which Bobcat Blend is able to properly
55 address the issues associated with composting, which are

56 dependent on variable climatic factors as a result of the
57 changing of seasons; and

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59 **WHEREAS:** Among the Texas State Shared Values is listed the
60 following: "A commitment to service and leadership for the
61 public good", "Responsible stewardship of our resources and
62 environment", and "Continued reflection and evaluation to
63 ensure that our strengths as a community always benefit
64 those we serve"; and

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66 **WHEREAS:** In 2014 the Associated Student Government of Texas State
67 University passed a resolution entitled "A Resolution
68 Calling for More Support of Bobcat Blend" which advocated
69 for the institutionalization of the program in a permanent
70 manner, in an attempt to eliminate food waste, provide
71 research opportunities for students, and make waste
72 management more cost effective overall; NOW, THEREFORE

73
74 **BE IT RESOLVED:** The Texas State Student Government calls for
75 the University administration to, in conjunction with
76 the Departments of Agriculture and Sustainability,
77 hire a part-time Bobcat Blend technician, who has the
78 proper education, training, and composting experience
79 required to adequately operate Bobcat Blend composting
80 facilities and collect pre and post-consumer food

81 waste from Texas State dining halls and on-campus food

82 vendors; and

83

84 **BE IT RESOLVED:** This legislation will be forwarded to the

85 Student Body President for further action