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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.

WHEREAS: Food waste which is not properly disposed of ends up in landfills, where it is buried, deprived of oxygen, and eventually produces methane gas, which is one of the most potent greenhouse gases on Earth; and

WHEREAS: A study by the International Energy Agency in 2012 listed food waste as being responsible for 8.2% of
global greenhouse gas emissions, which is comparable to the
10.1% of emissions produced by vehicular road
transportation¹; and

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

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

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

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

¹ https://doi.org/10.1787/co2_fuel-2014-en
² http://www.fao.org/3/a-bb144e.pdf
⁴ https://hillviews.txstate.edu/issues/2017/a-taste-of-texas-state/bobcat-blend.html
WHEREAS: Bobcat Blend is a student run, research and teaching oriented campus composting program, which raises awareness about the intrinsic value of composting, while helping students, faculty, and staff develop environmentally and economically sustainable habits and ensuring that the university as a whole takes a responsible approach toward waste management; and

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

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

WHEREAS: The constant need to train new students to operate and manage composting facilities significantly affects the efficiency with which Bobcat Blend is able to properly address the issues associated with composting, which are
dependent on variable climatic factors as a result of the changing of seasons; and

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED: The Texas State Student Government calls for the University administration to, in conjunction with the Departments of Agriculture and Sustainability, hire a part-time Bobcat Blend technician, who has the proper education, training, and composting experience required to adequately operate Bobcat Blend composting facilities and collect pre and post-consumer food
BE IT RESOLVED: This legislation will be forwarded to the
Student Body President for further action