To be known as “A Resolution Calling for an Increase in Texas State University’s Environmental Student Fee from $1 to $2,” which would increase the amount of funds available to students for environmental projects that preserve the beauty of our campus and create a sustainable campus community.
WHEREAS: Texas State University is a thriving institution that continues to experience rapid growth and expansion in student population yearly; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS: In the Environmental Service Committee Bylaws under Article III titled “Purpose” it is stated that The Environmental Student Service fee was established by Student Government and the Texas Legislature to support a broad range of topics such as environmental education, recycling,
transportation, employment, product purchasing,
distributing small grants or matching funds,
planning/maintenance, beautification, and irrigation; and

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

WHEREAS: This referendum serves to specifically amend line 11 from
the “amount may not exceed 1$ per semester of the regular
term or term of the summer session” to read: the “amount
may not exceed 2$ per semester of the regular term or term
of the summer session;” and

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

WHEREAS: The current Environmental Student Service fee is only 1$and
does not accurately reflect the expansion Texas State University has
experienced; and
WHEREAS: The Environmental Service Fee has proven to be effective as it has funded a wide variety of projects such as Bobcat Blend, Water Bottle Refill Stations, The Bike Cave, Pack It Up and Pass It On, San Marcos River Cleanups, Texas Wild Rice Festival, UPD Bike Projects, and the Stadium Recycling program; and

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon the call for the referendum, the Student Government Director of Marketing and the Public Relations Officer coordinate with the Dean of Students Office to release
information and publicize the referendum to the student body through both print and electronic media; and

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

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