A Bill in Support of The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Referendum on the Spring 2007 ASUC Ballot

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Sponsored by Senators Jane Park, Dwight Asuncion, Caro Jauregui, Brandon Chen, and Taylor Allbright

WHEREAS, environmental sustainability is of vital importance to current and future students, the University of California at Berkeley, and the greater community in which it is placed; and

WHEREAS, the ASUC has exhibited its long-term commitment to sustainability by specifically calling for a Director of Environmental Sustainability in Title 24 of the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the current financial model for sustainability projects on campus makes the goal of environmental sustainability untenable for UC Berkeley unless an alternative source of funding is found for these projects; and

WHEREAS, similar mandatory student fees have been passed at other UC campuses such as UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz to address the lack of financial resources for sustainability projects; and

WHEREAS, the level of sustainability of UC Berkeley is not on par with the student body's support for sustainable development and concern regarding issues such as global warming; and

WHEREAS, TGIF will create a direct avenue for student involvement in and improvement of the material operations of the physical campus; and

WHEREAS, a mandatory student fee to create and sustain TGIF is a proposed solution to the unavailability of financial resources for sustainability projects at UC Berkeley and the want for greater student involvement in setting the tone for the campus' environmental stewardship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following language below is the contract that the ASUC Senate will forward to the UC Office of the President to consider as The Green Initiative Fund Referendum, given that it is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the below language be placed on this year's ASUC ballot for consideration of The Green Initiative Fund Referendum by the student body:

THE GREEN INITIATIVE FUND REFERENDUM

A mandatory student fee of $5 per semester has been proposed to raise funds for projects focused on environmental sustainability at UC Berkeley. The funded projects would focus on:

- Minimizing UC Berkeley's contribution to global climate change
- Conserving water, energy, and other resources
- Increasing UC Berkeley's use of renewable energy from sources such as solar panels, wind power, and biodiesel for campus vehicles
- Promoting local and organic food
- Educating the campus community about environmental sustainability
- Providing paid student internships

The funds will be managed by The Green Initiative Fund Grant Making Committee, under the ASUC-Auxiliary. The Committee will award funds to projects proposed by students, faculty, and/or staff based on the following guidelines:

1. Projects shall reduce UC Berkeley's impact on the environment.
2. Projects shall have publicity, education and outreach components.
3. Projects shall have received all necessary written approval by appropriate campus officials prior to consideration.
4. UC Berkeley students, staff, and faculty are able to submit project proposals; individuals and organizations outside of UC Berkeley are not.
5. TGIF will not fund projects already mandated by law or UC policy. TGIF will fund projects that go above and beyond current legal or policy requirements.
6. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate the greatest reduction of UC Berkeley's impact on the environment for the least cost.
7. Preference will be given to projects that are able to repay the fund.
8. Student participation should be encouraged.

The following mandatory fee will apply to all registered graduate and undergraduate students, and will be governed by UC Berkeley's standard schedule of refunds. The fee is subject to the following costs and conditions:

- Collection of the fee will begin with Fall Semester 2007 at $5.00 per semester and continue at that rate for three years, through Spring Semester 2010. The fee will be in effect for ten years, from Fall 2007 through Spring 2017. Students registering in the summer will be assessed a fee in the same amount as the following Fall Semester, beginning with summer 2008.
- After Spring 2010, the fee will increase every three years to cover the cost of inflation and other increases (including the cost of energy) in the following manner:
    - 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10 (Years 1 -3): $5.00 per semester
    - 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 (Years 4-6): $5.50 per semester
    - 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (Years 7-10): $6.00 per semester

In accordance with campus policy, one-third of the Fee will be returned to financial aid to help offset the cost of this Fee for students who are eligible for financial aid.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

A mandatory student fee of $5 per semester, increasing by $0.50 in the 4th year (to $5.50) and 7th year (to $6.00) to cover inflation, and terminating after the 10th year, has been proposed to raise funds for projects that address UC Berkeley's environmental sustainability and its impact on global climate change and that support student-led sustainability efforts. Do you approve of this fee?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the funds will be managed by The Green Initiative Fund Grant Making Committee under the ASUC Auxiliary; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that The Green Initiative Fund Grant Making Committee will be governed by the By-Laws of the Green Initiative Fund in the custody of the authors and sponsors of this bill.