

University of Illinois Springfield

Student Government Association Resolution 22 (AY 2013 – 2014)

By Students of S.A.G.E., Students Allied for a Greener Earth
Sponsored by Senator Justin Ketterman

Student Referendum for the Proposed UIS Green Fund

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

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois Springfield, according to its Strategic Plan, has committed to becoming “a role model in promoting campus environmental sustainability”; and

WHEREAS, the current financial model for sustainability projects on campus makes the goal of sustainability untenable for University of Illinois Springfield unless an alternative source of funding is found; and

WHEREAS, similar student fees, both mandatory and refundable, have been passed at both other University of Illinois campuses and peer institutions of UIS; and

WHEREAS, the level of sustainability of University of Illinois Springfield is not on par with Strategic Plan nor the student body’s support for sustainable development and concern regarding issues such as climate change; and

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

WHEREAS, a refundable student fee to create and sustain The Green Fund is a proposed solution to the unavailability of financial resources for sustainability projects at University of Illinois Springfield 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 University of Illinois Student Government Association will forward to the University of Illinois student body to consider as The Green Fund Referendum, given that it is approved.

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

A refundable student fee of \$5 per semester has been proposed to raise funds for projects focused on sustainability at University of Illinois Springfield. The funded projects would focus on:

- Minimizing University of Illinois Springfield’s contribution to global climate change
- Conserving water, energy, and other resources and promoting local food
- Increasing University of Illinois Springfield’s use of renewable energy from sources such as solar panels, wind power, and biodiesel for campus vehicles
- Educating the campus community about environmental sustainability
- Providing student internships and other means of student involvement

The funds will be managed by The Green Fund Committee, under the Student Government Association. The Committee will award funds to projects proposed by students, faculty, and/or staff based on the following guidelines:

1. Projects shall reduce University of Illinois Springfield's impact on the environment.
2. Projects shall include some student involvement component, and projects initiated by or championed by students will be given preference.
3. Projects shall have publicity, education and outreach components.
4. Projects shall have received all necessary written approval by appropriate campus officials prior to consideration.
5. University of Illinois Springfield students, staff, and faculty are able to submit project proposals; individuals and organizations outside of University of Illinois Springfield are not.
6. The Green Fund will not fund projects already mandated by law or University of Illinois policy. The Green Fund will fund projects that go above and beyond current legal or policy requirements.
7. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate the greatest reduction of University of Illinois Springfield's impact on the environment for the least cost.
8. Preference will be given to projects that are able to repay the fund.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

A refundable student fee of \$5 per semester has been proposed to raise funds for projects that improve University of Illinois Springfield's environmental sustainability, lessen its impact on global climate change, and support student-led sustainability efforts. Do you approve of this fee?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the funds will be managed by The Green Fund Committee under the Student Government Association; and

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