A Resolution Recommending an Evaluation of the Current Structure of the President's Sustainability Committee

Sponsor: Senator Joshua Crownover
Co-sponsor(s): Senator Adam Daniel
Principal author(s): Executive Director of Sustainability Alexander Moylan, President Ravi Rajendra

WHEREAS, the student body recognizes the need for sustainable infrastructure and programs at the University of South Alabama; and,
WHEREAS, the student body has actively pursued projects that contribute to a campus atmosphere that promotes sustainability; and,
WHEREAS, the current residence hall recycling program originally initiated through wholly student efforts; and,
WHEREAS, a grassroots student movement to build a campus community garden resulted in the construction of this campus community garden; and,
WHEREAS, some faculty-led sustainability efforts exist on campus; and,
WHEREAS, the President's Sustainability Committee indicates the University's growing desire for a more sustainable campus; and,
WHEREAS, the Student Government Association recognizes the need for a more unified approach to campus sustainability issues that incorporates the perspective of students, faculty, administration, and the surrounding Mobile community; and,
WHEREAS, the current membership of the President's Sustainability Committee is limited and could better reflect all perspectives related to the issue of campus sustainability; and,
WHEREAS, the limited membership of the President's Sustainability Committee weakens its efficacy; and,
WHEREAS, the President's Sustainability Committee could benefit from the multitude of perspectives - (like that of regional community organizations dedicated to sustainability efforts) provided by an expansion of its membership; and,
WHEREAS, the current process for membership on the President's Sustainability Committee is unclear; and,
WHEREAS, to the knowledge of the Student Government Association, the current process for membership on the President's Sustainability Committee appears to be at the sole discretion of the chair of the President's Sustainability Committee; and,
WHEREAS, to the knowledge of the Student Government Association, no term limit exists for the chair of the President's Sustainability Committee; and,
WHEREAS, to the knowledge of the Student Government Association, the President's Sustainability Committee has no documents guiding it as an on-campus agency or describing the vision of it as an on-campus agency; and,
WHEREAS, students who have attended President's Sustainability Committee meetings have informed the Student Government Association that they question the accountability of the President's Sustainability Committee; and,
WHEREAS, the Student Government Association believes the drafting of guiding documents for the President's Sustainability Committee would result in increased accountability for this on-campus agency; and,
WHEREAS, the Student Government Association desires the successful implementation of projects related to campus sustainability at the University of South Alabama; and,
WHEREAS, the Student Government Association desires the development of a long-term plan for campus sustainability at the University of South Alabama; and,
WHEREAS, the President's Sustainability Committee has the potential to develop a long-term plan for campus sustainability, unite campus sustainability efforts, and successfully implement campus sustainability projects; and,
WHEREAS, the President's Sustainability Committee has the potential to institutionalize sustainability at the University of South Alabama for generations to come.

THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends that the University evaluate the current structure and membership of the President's Sustainability Committee, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends that the University draft guiding documents for the President's Sustainability Committee, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends that a transparent process exists for membership to the President's Sustainability Committee within these guiding documents, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends that a mission and/or vision for the President's Sustainability Committee is contained within these guiding documents in order to maintain accountability for the President's Sustainability Committee, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends that the membership of the President's Sustainability Committee be expanded to incorporate more perspectives like that of the Student Government Association along with regional community organizations devoted to sustainability efforts, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends that the position and responsibilities of the chair of the President's Sustainability Committee be defined within the aforementioned guiding documents to ensure that the chair of the President's Sustainability Committee is aware of his or her duties, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends that the chair of the President's Sustainability Committee be selected based both on his or her ability to execute these duties and on his or her passion for sustainability, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Dr. Tony Waldrop, University President; Dr. John Smith, Executive University Vice President; Dr. Michael Mitchell, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Dr. Krista Harrell, Associate Dean of Students; Ms. Angela McGaugh, President of the student organization Sustainability Council; the Vanguard for informational purposes; and others as may be deemed necessary at a later date.