A Resolution on Environmental and Economic Sustainability at Purdue University

Whereas, sustaining our economy and environment for the long term is a grand challenge for our society, one where universities can play an important role,

Whereas, attaining sustainability of economy and environment is at the leading edge of innovation and technology, and therefore imperative aspects for education and research at Purdue,

Whereas, many leading business and academic organizations in Indiana, both business and academic, have made substantial commitments to sustainability targets, most notably in energy production and use (“carbon footprint”),

Whereas, many of Purdue’s peer academic institutions have also made substantial commitments to sustainable operations and to reporting their subsequent performance by mechanisms, such as AASHE STARS (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System),

Whereas, Purdue’s peers in the Big 10 have compiled a positive record of involvement with AASHE STARS (8 Gold rankings and 3 Silver),

Whereas, the Purdue administration committed to the URPC over 18 months ago to develop a strategic plan for sustainability,
Whereas, the university has long prided itself on an excellent record of prudent fiscal management,

Be it resolved, the Purdue University Senate proposes that:

a) Purdue develop a strategic plan that sets goals placing us in the top quartile of Big 10 institutions and commits to achieving those targets;

b) Purdue adopt a transparent reporting framework (AASHE STARS or similar) to measure our performance against these targets;

c) These sustainability goals become an integral part of master planning for the campus;

d) Purdue make any investment in sustainable outcomes that can be expected to show a positive financial return over a 10-year time period, both as means for achieving the goals of the strategic plan and as part of a general commitment to sustainability and fiscal prudence;

e) The Provost and the Chief Financial Officer make yearly reports to the Purdue Senate on the academic, physical, and financial aspects of the sustainability plan, outlining progress and describing both future prospects and any difficulties in achieving the goals in the strategic plan.

Approved by URPC, April 5, 2018:

In favor:
Jianxin Ma
David Eichinger
Norbert Neumeister
Laura Claxton
Bill Hutzel
Stephen Hooser
Charles Ross
Rick Kase
Christian Butzke
Richard Johnson-Sheehan
Alan Friedman

Opposed:
Tom Brush