First Reading: March 3, 2015

Second Reading: March 17, 2015

Pass: Yes

Bill 3-15-S Funding for SGA Reusable Container and Bag Pilot Program

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to model sustainable behavior related to reducing the use of single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam take-out containers in campus dining outlets, to provide feedback on the use of these products, and to launch a larger campaign for reusable containers and bags in campus dining outlets.

WHEREAS: The Student Government Association (SGA) will allocate $206.40 from Legislative Discretionary Funds to finance a total of forty-eight reusable containers, and

WHEREAS: SGA will allocate $290.32 from legislative discretionary funding to purchase thirty-six reusable bags at $7.37 cents each, plus a one-time $25.00 fee, to provide each member of the Student Government Association with a reusable bag, and

WHEREAS: Each member of SGA will commit to using their reusable container and reusable bag throughout the entire month of April when carrying food out of campus dining outlets, and

WHEREAS: Upon completion of the pilot program, the containers and bags will be returned to the SGA office and made accessible to all students, and before the end of the Spring 2015 semester, the Student Government Association will provide constructive feedback to leaders and decision makers of Dining Services during an SGA meeting, and

WHEREAS: Upon Aramark’s contract renewal, the Student Government Association supports the inclusion of a clause that prohibits the general practice of distributing single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam containers in campus dining outlets, and

WHEREAS: The transition from single-use plastic bags and take-out containers to reusable alternatives will eliminate a significant amount of unnecessary plastic waste from Western Kentucky University’s campus, and

WHEREAS: The elimination of single-use plastic bags and take-out containers will support Western Kentucky University’s Climate Action Plan by reducing the university’s carbon footprint.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $496.72 from Legislative Discretionary Funding to SGA’s Reusable Container & Bag Pilot Program

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