The [shared governance name] of Northern Illinois University

Resolution Regarding Sustainability

[date]

Whereas Northern Illinois University (NIU) has an existing and growing commitment to protecting the environment for present and future generations with the Environmental Studies undergraduate degree, the Director of Environmental Affairs for the Student Association, infrastructure improvements from office-scale to entire sections of campus, and as a signatory of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2014;

Whereas every Illinois state university and benchmark institution outside of Illinois (ie: Mid-America Conference schools) has some form of strategic plan to address institutional sustainability efforts;

Whereas NIU has a strong record of energy efficiency and recycling initiatives that are unknown to constituents and lack cohesive coordination;

Whereas previous projects to install energy-efficient infrastructure have resulted in significant fiscal savings for NIU;

Whereas better planned and publicized sustainability efforts have a positive effect on recruiting and retaining students; and

Whereas the NIU Green Team develops socially-conscious citizens, in alignment with the NIU mission and vision, by engaging faculty, staff, and students in experiential learning opportunities that provide critical thinking skills and content knowledge important to long-lasting civic engagement; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that in light of Northern Illinois University’s commitment to sustainability, the [shared governance name (UC, FS, OSC, SPS, SA)]:

1. urges the NIU Green Team to oversee efforts to develop and implement a plan for coordinated sustainability initiatives at the university;
2. urges the NIU community to participate in drafting and adopting sustainability practices;
3. urges the NIU Green Team to continue current efforts to collect information about completed and ongoing NIU sustainability initiatives and publicize these efforts;
4. urges NIU to seek state and national recognition for these initiatives and to capitalize on the long-term budget savings and student recruitment and retention potential gained through appropriate planning, coordinating, and publicizing of sustainability initiatives; and
5. urges the NIU community to use sustainability initiatives as a way to mentor students in becoming socially-conscious citizens concerned about the ongoing success of sustainability at NIU, in the community, and across the globe.

Movers:

Seconders: