

R F2019.02

A Resolution for the Support of Carbon-Neutral Facilities and Campus Expansion

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

September 25, 2019

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, the mission of LSA SG Taking Responsibility for the Earth and Environment Subcommittee (hereafter TREES) is to “actively work to improve the lives of LSA students outside of the academic sphere by promoting the culture of sustainability and advocating for environmental awareness”;² and,

Whereas, on February 4, 2019, the University of Michigan’s (hereafter U-M) Planet Blue website stated, “President Mark Schlissel announced the members of the core team responsible for developing recommendations for how to achieve carbon neutrality for U-M, as well as develop scalable and transferable strategies that can be used by other institutions and larger communities to achieve the same goal”;³ and,

Whereas, the LSA student body has expressed strong support for carbon neutrality at U-M through a Winter 2019 LSA SG ballot question in which 76% of students polled indicated that the university transitioning to 100% renewable energy is a moderate to high priority (See Appendix A); and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² The Official LSA SG Bylaws. Purpose of Taking Responsibility for the Earth and the Environment Subcommittee 11.03.00

³ University of Michigan. Planet Blue. <http://sustainability.umich.edu/carbonneutrality>

Whereas, the U-M Ann Arbor campus has thirteen ongoing construction and renovation projects that are deemed by U-M Architecture, Engineering and Construction as “Major Projects,” excluding U-M Medical Buildings;⁴ and,

Whereas, the thirteen ongoing/planned “Major Projects” are estimated to be completed by Winter 2022 with a combined budget of \$887.6 million;⁴ and,

Whereas, U-M will not reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2035 if the planned “Major Projects” do not adhere to the recommendations of the President’s Commission on Carbon Neutrality (hereafter PCCN).

Be it therefore resolved, it is the position of LSA SG that the PCCN should be directed to establish carbon neutrality recommendations for ongoing “Major Projects” prior to their completion; and,

Be it finally resolved, future “Major Projects” at the University of Michigan should not begin without first receiving recommendations from the PCCN.

⁴ University of Michigan. Architecture, Engineering and Construction.
<https://umaec.umich.edu/projects/major-projects/>

Appendix A

How would you prioritize the university transitioning to 100% renewable energy, knowing this would potentially come at either a direct (e.g. tuition surcharge) or indirect (e.g. fewer building renovations) cost?

Answer	Votes	Exceptions	Total including Exceptions
Highly	565	11	576
Moderately	361	6	367
Slightly	179	2	181
Not at all	111	2	113