Senate Bill: 2011-12-14

Date: February 15, 2012

Authored by: Max Aram, Director of Environmental Affairs

Referred to: University Affairs

Senate Action: Senate approved on 02/21/12 (votes: 20-0-0)

Title: Resolution restricting the distribution of single-use plastic bags on campus

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students is the primary advocate for students at California State University, Northridge and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning-focused campus environment

2. WHEREAS: Californians use an estimated 19 billion plastic bags per year; and

3. WHEREAS: Only five percent of these bags are actually recycled. The rest end up in landfills or as litter; and

4. WHEREAS: Los Angeles, along with other municipalities statewide, spends more than $25 million of tax payers money each year to clean up plastic single-use bags from public places, storm drains, and from our waste stream; and

5. WHEREAS: There are countless environmental damages such as significant use of natural resources for bag production, increased wildlife fatalities from strangulation and suffocation, negative impacts on water quality, and-most salient for our Los Angeles economy-cleaner beaches; and

6. WHEREAS: Plastic never biodegrades for any intent or purpose; but they slowly photo degrades. As it photo degrades, it breaks into smaller and smaller pieces which attract surrounding toxins; and

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3 California Integrated Waste Management Board www.ciwmb.ca.gov/lgcentral/basics/plasticbag.htm
4 http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/270/
7. WHEREAS: Plastic marine pollution is a global problem with a local solution; and

8. WHEREAS: CSUN can be one of the leaders in taking action against the single use plastic bags among universities nationwide; therefore let it be

1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students stop using single-use plastic bags in any activity related to them; and let it be further

2. RESOLVED: The Environmental Affairs Committee takes the lead in educating the students and increase the general knowledge about the negative impacts of single-use plastic bags on environment through a comprehensive campaign

3. RESOLVED: The Associated Students would like to respectfully urge the University Corporation to restrict the distribution of single-use plastic bags on all the convenience stores and food services except the franchises; and let it be further

4. RESOLVED: The Associated Students would like to respectfully urge the Follett Higher Education Group to restrict the distribution of single-use plastic bags at Matador Bookstore; and let it be further

5. RESOLVED: In support, AS will provide free reusable bags for a 3-year period; and let it be further

6. RESOLVED: A.S supports the purchase of Reusable Bags as an alternative to plastic bags; and let it be finally

7. RESOLVED: That the copies of this resolution be sent to:
   The University Corporation
   Institute for Sustainability
   A.S Recycle Program
   Matador Bookstore
   Dr. William Watkins
   Daily Sundial

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Amanda Flavin            Sydni Powell
President, 2011-2012      Vice President, 2011-2012