

Resolution in Support of Sustainability and Organic Food Availability in the  
Associated Students Food Service

Whereas; the Associated Students of Chico State is making incredible strides toward sustainability, and

Whereas; vast amounts of the world's agricultural lands are cultivated in such a way that they will not be able to sufficiently provide food for future generations because of poor stewardship, (Sources: "Land Degradation in the Developing World: Issues and Policy Options for 2020," by Sara J. Scherr and Satya Yadav, in *The Unfinished Agenda: Perspectives on Overcoming Hunger, Poverty and Environmental Degradation*, International Food Policy Research Institute, 2001. Also, "Resources, Technology, and Public and Private Choices," by Keith Wiebe, in *Who Will Be Fed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Challenges for Science and Policy*, International Food Policy Research Institute, 2001.) and

Whereas; a global survey of groundwater pollution shows that increasing levels of nitrogen, fertilizers, industrial chemicals, and heavy metals generated by unsustainable agricultural practices are contaminating groundwater and ocean water humans depend on all over the globe, (Source: "Deep Trouble: The Hidden Threat of Groundwater Pollution," by Payal Sampat, *Worldwatch Paper 154*, December 2000.) and

Whereas; President Zingg has signed the American College & University President's Climate Commitment which states that "in pursuit of climate neutrality" the University will "Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible," and

Whereas; purchasing organically grown produce from California would require less petroleum fuel for shipping, less petroleum derived energy and other unsustainable substances than "conventional" crops, and

Whereas; the long distance delivery of imported produce creates immense amounts of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, and

Whereas; a key to sustainable development is financially supporting our state's economy, and

Whereas; major corporations including Walmart and Safeway have introduced organic food and produce, indicating an emerging market for such products. Whole Foods Market is "the country's leading natural and organic foods supermarket. Playing to the nation's growing desire for a healthier lifestyle, Whole Foods' stock is up by a very unnatural 1,522% over the past decade," therefore (Source: <http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/P116548.asp>)

Be it resolved; the AS will find a way to capitalize on this consumer trend, and

Be it further resolved; in pursuit of sustainability the AS will take heed of the

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment which states that "in pursuit of climate neutrality" the University will "Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible," and

Be it further resolved; the AS will form an exploratory committee headed by the AS Sustainability Coordinator including a representative from AS Food Service, the Environmental Affairs Council, the Vice President of Business and Finance and others as needed to find a fiscally reasonable means to implement a pilot program to implement this resolution and to explore the processes by which produce will be obtained from potential University Farm organic projects and other organic California farms with preference for farms in close proximity to Chico, and

Be it further resolved; the AS will form this exploratory committee by the end of the fiscal year ending '06-'07, and

Be it further resolved; the AS will support hands on learning about organic, sustainable agriculture by buying produce from the University Farm's organic projects if it becomes available to help perpetuate organic projects on the University Farm and the learning opportunities they offer students, and

Be it further resolved; by purchasing more organic food the AS will reduce pollution and American dependence on foreign oil and increase energy independence, and

Be it further resolved; GAC asks that 10% of the total available food on campus from AS Food Service be USDA certified made with organic ingredients (products that contain at least 70 % organic ingredients can use the phrase "made with organic ingredients"), and

Be it further resolved; GAC asks that 20% of the total available food on campus from AS Food Service be produced, and shipped from within California, and

Be it further resolved; GAC asks that 25% of the total available produce on campus from AS Food Service is produced in California and USDA certified organic.

*Amended to add:*

*Be it further resolved; the AS Purchasing Policy shall Give Purchasing Preference to Food Producers within Close Proximity to CSU, Chico.*

*Approved by GAC: 2-5-07*

*Reported to BOD: 2-14-07*