

A RESOLUTION to the Board of Directors for the
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

WHEREAS Western Washington University and the Associated Students of Western Washington University deeply value sustainability and student success; and,

WHEREAS, the Western Washington University Foundation is a non-profit, public 501(c)(3) organization that advances the mission of the University, “*by inspiring our community to give, we secure and steward private resources to advance scholarship, research and creativity*”; and,

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation has multi-generational obligations to beneficiaries and supports student success through scholarships and program funding; and,

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation investment structure primarily uses complex commingled funds that consist of a combination of assets from different institutions, yet still offer the opportunity for sustainable investing; and,

WHEREAS, our local and global communities face significant challenges including social inequity, climate change, poverty, and racism; and,

WHEREAS, there are a diversified set of strategies for sustainable investing which can be used in combination to balance financial and socio-environmental goals; and,

WHEREAS, leading university endowments are incorporating sustainability into investment selection, such as the Harvard Management Company’s inclusion of ESG factors into investment manager selection;¹ and,

WHEREAS, the Associated Students does not recognize a contradiction between sustainable investing and high market returns, given overwhelming consensus amongst economic research organizations on the profitability of sustainable funds in excess of traditional ones;² and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Advisory committee has been developing the Sustainable Action Plan for over a year, which recognizes the need for sustainable investing from a holistic perspective; therefore

¹ Sustainable Investment Harvard Management Company. (n.d.). Retrieved May 03, 2017, from http://www.hmc.harvard.edu/investment-management/sustainable_investment.html

² Ellsworth, Peter, and Spalding, Kirsten Snow. “The 21st Century Investor: Ceres Blueprint for Sustainable Investing.” Ceres, June 2016.

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASWWU urges the WWU Foundation to support the recommendations set forth in the WWU Sustainable Action Plan Investments Chapter.

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASWWU strongly encourages the WWU Foundation to explore opportunities to phase-out current investments in fossil fuel companies, especially companies operating high-carbon extraction processes such as tar sands and coal.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the ASWWU urges the WWU Foundation to advance the aforementioned mission and commitments of WWU through incorporating more sustainable investing opportunities such as ESG and Impact Investing.