

**R2014 – 01**

**BYO BAG INITIATIVE**

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD**

**University of Pittsburgh**

**28 January 2014**

**Introduced by Board Member Mona Kazour**

**Co-sponsored by Environmental Chair Kacy McGill and President Mike Nites**

- WHEREAS,** Approximately 15,000 plastic bags are used at the University of Pittsburgh every week.
- WHEREAS,** These plastic bags are not recyclable in Pittsburgh and therefore end up in landfills where they take up to 1,000 years to decompose.
- WHEREAS,** Plastic bags are a major source of pollution that collect in our oceans, harm wildlife, and accumulate in our houses, streets, and backyards.
- WHEREAS,** Sodexo has purchased reusable bags and will be selling them at dining locations for affordable prices.
- WHEREAS,** Several student organizations including Take Back the Tap, Free the Planet, Students for Sustainability and the Pitt Green Fund Advisory Board are sponsoring a plastic bag quota.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of 2014, the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board supports the “BYO[BAG]” campus initiative and policy that implements a quota that will allot students 15 “free” plastic bags per semester using their Pitt ID cards and charges a fee of 25 cents per additional bag. The University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board also supports and highly recommends that a majority of this fee be donated to the Pitt Green Fund Advisory Board, and will support this initiative in communicating and promoting it to the student body. This will be done through the use of the SGB logo on the signs for the initiative as well as promotion on social media.