

B.R.2015.02

BYO[BAG] INITIATIVE RESTRUCTURE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: Environmental Committee Chair Streets
CO-AUTHORED BY: Sodexo Sustainability Intern Goodfellow
CO-SPONSORED BY: Sodexo, Pitt Green Fund Advisory Board, Free the Planet, Students for Sustainability

1 SEPTEMBER 2015

Environmental Committee Chair Streets introduced the following resolution; which was read for the first time.

8 SEPTEMBER 2015

Read the second time and voted on.

A RESOLUTION

TO REDUCE PLASTIC BAG CONSUMPTION ON PITT'S CAMPUS

- 1 WHEREAS, approximately 15,000 plastic bags are used at the University of
2 Pittsburgh every week ;
- 3 WHEREAS, these plastic bags are not recyclable in Pittsburgh and therefore end
4 up in landfills or as trash in the environment where they will
5 photodegrade into smaller, less manageable micro-plastics that
6 easily contaminate land, water, and the food chain ;
- 7 WHEREAS, plastic bags are a major source of pollution that collects in our
8 oceans, with an average of 46,000 pieces of plastic per square
9 mile creating what the United Nations Environmental Program
10 termed “plastic smog” ;
- 11 WHEREAS, Sodexo has partnered with the Department of PittServes and the
12 Student Office of Sustainability to purchase reusable bags to be
13 sold dining locations for affordable prices where 50% of the
14 proceeds will be donated to the Pitt Green Fund Advisory

15 Board and student volunteers will be tabling to distribute free
16 reusable bags during the add/drop period;

17 WHEREAS, Sodexo and several student organizations including Take Back the
18 Tap, Free the Planet, Students for Sustainability, and the Pitt
19 Green Fund Advisory Board are sponsoring the adjustment to
20 the [BYO]Bag fee policy;

21 WHEREAS, the initial BYO[Bag] plastic bag quota supported in SGB resolution
22 R2014-01 is recognized as ungovernable and in need of
23 revision in order to effectively reduce plastic bag consumption
24 on campus and remove the burden on cashiers of administering
25 this policy ; *now, therefore, be it*

26 RESOLVED, on this 8th day of September in the year 2015, the University of
27 Pittsburgh Student Government Board supports the updated
28 [BYO]Bag Policy wherein plastic bags will cost 25 cents each
29 after the add/drop period each semester to reduce plastic bag
30 consumption at Pitt and support sustainable practices like
31 bringing a reusable bag; *and be it further*

32 RESOLVED, that Sodexo donate 50% of the plastic bag fee to the Pitt Green
33 Fund Advisory Board to support further sustainable practices
34 and projects; *and be it finally*

35 RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption
36 and shall reflect the official position of the University of
37 Pittsburgh Student Government Board.

38 ADOPTED: this [8th day of September in the year 2015] by a vote of [7] for,
39 [0] against, and [0] abstentions.

Nasreen Harun, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board