

*Whereas*, in the United States, buildings currently account for: 36% of total energy use, 65% of electricity consumption, 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of raw materials use, 30% of waste output—(136 million tons annually), and 12% of potable water consumption <sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, the health and community benefits of sustainable development include: improved air quality, improved micro-climate and thermal environments, enhanced occupant comfort and health, and minimized strain on local infrastructure;

*Whereas*, the environmental benefits include: enhancing and protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, improving air and water quality, reducing outflow of solid waste, and conserving natural resources;

*Whereas*, the economic benefits include: reduced operating costs, enhanced asset value and profits, improved employee productivity and satisfaction, and optimized life-cycle economic performance;

*Whereas* the University is planning to invest more than 600 million dollars in new construction and renovation projects<sup>2</sup>, some of which are in their initial design phases; therefore be it;

*Whereas*, “extending our architectural legacy<sup>3</sup>” needs to include energy, material, ecological, and financial sustainability;

*Whereas*, the University of California Regents have approved the creation of a comprehensive green building and energy efficiency policy for the University of California system, following a 2002-2003 student led initiative that resulted in a green building feasibility study<sup>4</sup>;

*Whereas*, UNC Chapel Hill has recognized the importance of protecting and restoring environmentally sensitive areas of campus as part of their larger goal of becoming the leading public university in the United States;

*Whereas*, Brown University launched Brown Is Green Initiative between 1993 – 1999 to link students and administrators in an effort to coordinate more sustainable building practices on campus<sup>5</sup>;

*Whereas*, Harvard University created the Green Campus Initiative in 1999 with the goals of reducing the environmental impacts of campus operations, and of promoting environmental sustainability;

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<sup>1</sup> US Green Building Council

<sup>2</sup> *Building for the Future*, University document, Fall, 2003

<sup>3</sup> As stated as first principle in the University Master Plan, Office of the Architect.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ucop.edu/facil/greenbldgs/regpolicy.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [www.brown.edu/departments/brown\\_is\\_green/](http://www.brown.edu/departments/brown_is_green/)

*Whereas*, the University of Virginia wishes to remain a leader and model in all areas of higher education;

*Whereas*, the University was founded on Jeffersonian principles of responsible independence, an ideal that translates directly to sustainable and environmentally-responsive design; therefore be it

*Enacted*, that Student Council creates the Green Grounds Ad-Hoc Committee, charged with heightening awareness of sustainable growth and development, and promoting the integration of environmental responsibility with University policies; be it further

*Enacted*, that the remainder of this term shall be used by the Ad-Hoc Committee to do preliminary research into existing programs and potential agendas in order to form a more complete and focused mandate; be it further

*Enacted*, that the committee shall be allotted 600 dollars: 100 dollars for advertising to the University community, and 500 dollars for educational installations on grounds that promote environmental awareness in addition to the activities of the committee; be it further

Enacted, that the committee shall be allotted 600 dollars for three educational installations, to be built on-grounds for graduation weekend, that promote environmental awareness in addition to the activities of the committee; be it further

*Enacted*, the committee co-chairs shall be Ryan Madson and Tim Slater; be it further

*Enacted*, that the Green Grounds Ad-Hoc Committee shall expire on 4/27/05 unless otherwise renewed by the Representative Body.