

A Resolution in Support of Green Building and Clean, Renewable Energy

WHEREAS: The Talloires Declaration of 1990, an official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education, articulates the urgency of our environmental problems: local, regional, and global air and water pollution; accumulation and distribution of toxic wastes; destruction and depletion of forests, soil, and water; depletion of the ozone layer and emission of "greenhouse" gases that threaten the survival of humans and millions of other living species, the integrity of the earth and its biodiversity, the security of nations, and the health and rights of future generations (Source: www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html); and

WHEREAS: The Academic Senate of CSU, Chico has recommended campus adoption of the Talloires Declaration; and

WHEREAS: Governor Davis has recently taken steps towards sustainability by issuing Executive Order D-16-00 promoting the integration of sustainable and cost-effective building design and construction within the State as well his endorsement of SB 532 mandating an increase in the percentage of renewable energy in the state's energy portfolio (Source: www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2000_releases/executive_order_D1600.html); and

WHEREAS: the students of California State University, Chico have expressed their concern for the environment by voting in favor of several recent initiatives such as establishing an environmental course as a graduation requirement, the Talloires Declaration and the advisory measure encouraging the BMU to switch from non-renewable sources of energy to more sustainable and clean sources like solar or wind; and

WHEREAS: LEED Silver rated buildings cost no more than non-LEED buildings when the appropriate design concepts, technologies, and materials are incorporated at the beginning of the design process (Source: www.rmi.org/images/other/GDS-WhyBuildGreen.pdf); and

WHEREAS: A LEED certified building reduces energy and water use, conserves natural resources, and creates a healthy indoor environment all resulting in substantially lower operating, maintenance, and healthcare expenses and higher occupant productivity (Sources: www.usgbc.org, www.buildinggreen.com, www.greenbuild.com); and

WHEREAS: The CSU system as a whole can set a great example for other businesses and organizations by promoting and developing methods for sustainable building, which may help shape our future into becoming more environmentally friendly; therefore be it

RESOLVED: California State University, Chico adopt a policy that all new and renovated buildings on campus be designed and built to a LEED Silver rating or higher; and be it further

RESOLVED: California State University, Chico provide that all such new and renovated LEED Silver rated buildings consume energy generated from clean, renewable sources and that at least some of that energy be generated on site by solar, wind, fuel cell, and/or other clean, renewable sources; and be it further

RESOLVED: California State University, Chico develop long term plans for enacting a policy that follows or improves upon this resolution.