

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

WHEREAS, Western Washington University deeply values sustainability; and,

WHEREAS, The WWU Foundation is committed to advancing the mission and values of Western Washington University; and,

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation has multi-generational commitments to benefactors and supports student success through scholarships and other opportunities so maintaining viable returns of its endowment fund is vital; and,

WHEREAS, WWU cites sustainability, commitment to equity and justice, shared governance, and accountability as guiding core values; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is one of the gravest and most pressing threats facing communities locally, nationally, and globally; and,

WHEREAS, marginalized communities will be most heavily impacted by these changes and many communities are already feeling these impacts; and,

WHEREAS, these injustices ought to be acknowledged and addressed by all appreciable measures; and

WHEREAS, climate change is in large part caused by burning fossil fuels as fixed carbon is released into the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas; and,

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation's current investment structure is commingled funds and has holdings in portfolios which profit from fossil fuel extraction and burning; and,

WHEREAS, there are sustainable investing tools including Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) options which allow for the selective screening of companies and funds; and,

WHEREAS, ESG funds have returns equal to regular investments, and studies have found that returns on ESG funds are increasing over time; and,

WHEREAS, Western's current investment portfolio is managed by Commonfund; and,

WHEREAS, every five years a Request for Proposals (RFP) is sent out; and,

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation is currently undergoing the RFP process; and,

WHEREAS, The Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) is Western's ten year plan and was co-created with a committee comprised of students, faculty, and Foundation Staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Investment's Chapter of the SAP specifically outlines transparency requirements; and,

WHEREAS, the Investment's Chapter also heavily suggests the integration of ESG screening into the WWU Foundation's endowment fund; and,

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation signed the SAP and agreed to consider the requirements set forth; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the AS WWU urges the Foundation to consider the environmental justice implications of their decision with an investment manager and consider the ethics and morals of the investment manager before making their decision.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the AS WWU strongly encourages the Foundation to follow the guidelines they signed onto in the SAP and provide increased opportunity for shared governance for all interested students.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the AS WWU urges the Foundation to select an investment manager that has viable and attainable ESG options for our endowment size and holdings.