



## JOINT RESOLUTION 7S

### **Purpose of Resolution**

The purpose of this resolution is to convey to the Administration at the University of New Mexico (UNM) the necessity for UNM to protect the climate and our futures, through committing to carbon neutrality and waste-free operations on campus.

**WHEREAS**, the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico (ASUNM) is the representative body of the undergraduate students and promotes student success; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts by Utilities, Lobo Energy, and E&ES have resulted in a cumulative greenhouse gas reduction of five million, one hundred thirty one thousand, and one hundred seventy-two British Thermal Units (5,131,172) MMBTU, which is the equivalent to of two hundred seventy three thousand, nine hundred forty (273,946) tons of CO<sub>2</sub>; and

**WHEREAS**, UNM Recycling has placed more than two thousand (2,000) recycling bins in one hundred ninety-seven (197) buildings, which results in thirteen-point five percent (13.5%) of campus waste, or five hundred (500) tons being diverted from landfills on an annual basis; and

**WHEREAS**, UNM signed on to The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2007, which commits UNM to "eliminate their net greenhouse gas emissions from specified campus operations" and to "promote research of sustainability programs and empower the higher

education sector to educate students, create solutions, and provide leadership-by-example for the rest of society”<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico is a prime location for solar power and wind energy use, however this is currently underutilized, with the majority of UNM's electricity being coal-powered and most of its heating coming from natural gas; and

**WHEREAS**, UNM's main campus buildings have inefficient lighting and heating systems that waste energy every day, and UNM has the means to employ the resources to significantly reduce this waste; and

**WHEREAS**, there are numerous institutions, notably Colorado College, which are currently working to prioritize energy efficiency in their policies, through carbon neutrality initiatives such as setting high-performance energy guidelines for new and renovated buildings, adding solar installations, incentivizing sustainable personal actions, and working with local utilities services to meet their goals, helping to save large amounts of money in utility costs in recent years, with Colorado College having met its goal of carbon neutrality in its energy usage by the year 2020 from when it was set in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, UNM Food is currently partnered with the business Little Green Bucket, run by Brad Weikel, to transport and utilize its food scraps for composting, including all food waste from La Posada Dining Hall, with the company Solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a complex and time-consuming process behind transitioning energy and other infrastructure at an institution such as UNM to more sustainable processes; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that ASUNM recognizes the time period which we are in is extremely unique and more stressful than the norm, as there is great urgency in acting to counter the effects of climate change and putting our

efforts towards a greener campus would be extremely beneficial now and in the future to come; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ASUNM encourages the UNM administration to invest in methods to reduce day-to-day energy waste through neglected lighting and heating systems, such as those suggested by Bruce Milne to “install motion sensors in every room to diagnose power use, or the university could create jobs by hiring people to go around at night to turn lights off”<sup>5</sup>; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ASUNM encourages UNM dining operations, such as La Posada Dining Hall, The Mercado and other independently operated restaurant operations, to transition to either number one (1) or two (2) plastic materials, which are widely recyclable, or compostable materials; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ASUNM encourages that UNM administration, building committees, residence halls, student organizations, and others to help provide greater access to composting facilities, as well as to create and disperse educational materials, such as posters and/or virtual mediums informing about proper composting, to heighten community support and engagement for sustainable composting practices; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ASUNM encourages the UNM Sustainability Studies Program to add a page on their website with detailed information on proper composting and recycling, which could be accessed and shared to further inform and educate campus communities on proper recycling and composting; and


**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ASUNM sees value in bringing in student and faculty opinions on a regular basis for implementing policies which will help to increase energy sustainability; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ASUNM encourages the UNM administration to create a position in which the employee collects compost materials from bins around campus and transports the material to a determined location, such as La Posada, in which it could be collected; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ASUNM encourages that UNM use any available funds to ensure that the University transitions to a clean energy system, with the goal of completing this transition in the coming years; and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to UNM Board of Regents, UNM President Garnett S. Stokes, UNM Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Assata Zerai, UNM Vice President for Student Affairs Eliseo “Cheo” Torres, UNM Associate Vice President of Student Services Tim Gutierrez, UNM Athletics Director Eddie Nuñez, UNM Dean of Students Nasha Torrez, UNM Office of Equal Opportunity Director Francie Cordova, LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, UNM Women’s Resource Center, UNM LGBTQ+ Resource Center, the Daily Lobo, UNM Residence Life and Student Housing, UNM Residence Hall Association, and the UNM undergraduate student body.

Adopted by the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico on this 31st day of March, 2021.



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**Muskan “Mia” Amin, ASUNM President**



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**Ana Paula Milán, ASUNM Vice President**



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**Raina Harper, ASUNM President Pro-Tempore**



\*Resolution introduced by: Senator R. Harper (A)(S)(E), J. Newman (A)(E), R. Hobart (A)(E), K. Memmer (A)(E), Senator S. Ummadi (S)(E), Senator I. May (S), Senator A. Romero-Salas (S)(E)