

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

S.B. 04 029

Spring Sustainability Fair Act

IN THE SENATE

February 24, 2024

CEC Senator Karina Hernandez, CASE Senator Daniel Salup-Cid, CASE Senator Alexandra Barriga, and CEC Senator Hua Hui Vogel introduced the following bill, which was presented on the Senate floor.

A BILL

To appropriate \$3,675.45 for the purpose of providing vegetarian/vegan catering, plastic-free food ware, marketing and t-shirt giveaways for the bi-annual Sustainability Fair, to be held on April 4th, 2024.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,

Whereas, FIU is located in South Florida, one of the nation's areas most susceptible to environmental issues, including water quality, sea level rise, habitat loss, and plastic waste pollution;

Whereas, To enhance environmental stewardship at FIU, it is essential that we take the necessary steps to transmit our sustainability efforts to our students, faculty, and community in an engaging manner;

Whereas, the Office of University Sustainability collaborates with many sustainability-focused student organizations such as the Sustainable Panther Network and the Society of Sustainable Souls; FIU departments such as the Healthy Living Program and the College of Arts, Sciences and Education; external partners such as the Miami Dade County Office of Resilience, The Everglades Foundation, and U.S. Green Building Council to host a biannual Sustainability Fair for the aforementioned purpose;

Whereas, in April 2023, in celebration of Earth Month, OUS partnered with SGA to host the first ever Sustainability Fair, which was successful in hosting over 400 visitors and representing 25 organizations. In October 2023, in celebration of Campus Sustainability Month, the partnership again yielded success at hosting 18 returning organizations and the recruitment of 14 new organizations for a total of 32 represented organizations;

Whereas, positive student feedback highlights the significant number of learning opportunities students had available at their fingertips, the passport-style giveaway challenge, the quality of the giveaways, the free vegetarian food, and genuine appreciation that there is an environmental-based event as many expressed that they had expected more of these types of events on FIU's campus when they first enrolled;

Whereas, the Spring Sustainability Fair is centered around the theme of Earth Day, April 22, 2024, and intended to promote a culture of sustainability at FIU by creating a collaborative atmosphere in which the student body can learn about climate change, engage in eco-friendly practices, and develop the necessary tools to advocate for climate justice in an ever more climate-vulnerable world ;

Whereas, the Spring Sustainability Fair will be held on April 4th, 2024 at PC steps from 10 am- 2 pm- allowing for one hour of set up from 9 am to 10 am and clean up from 2 pm to 3 pm;

Whereas, FIU Parking, Sustainability and Transportation plans to financially support the event by providing MTS Live Events (outdoor screen and speaker for slideshow presentation) accommodations, over 1,500 sustainable giveaway items, a one hour appearance of FIU mascot, Roary, 35 tents, tables and chairs, display signs for event marketing, t-shirt design contest awards, and promotion of sustainable transportation services offered at FIU for a total financial support of approximately \$6,500;

Whereas, feedback received from our Spring 2023 and Fall 2024 Sustainability Fair revealed concerns regarding the accessibility of the event for Disabled individuals, highlighting the need for improvements in making our Sustainability Fair more inclusive;

Whereas, in response to this valuable feedback, we are committed to ensuring the fair aligns with the principles of sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to address these concerns, we moved the event location from GC Lawns to the area outside of Primera Casa to enhance the accessibility and inclusion for all attendees;

Whereas, for the purpose of promoting the Sustainability fair, the Student Government Association and University Sustainability & Innovation Committee members and other supporting senators intend to host tabling events, 2 weeks in advance of the fair,

Whereas, the Student Government Association intends to continue distribution of the reusable giveaway items available at the Student Government Association MMC office such as tumblers, reusable utensils, tote bags, etc. to attract students during the tabling events;

Whereas, with the help of promotional events such as tabling several weeks prior to its hosting, we estimate more than 450 attendees at the Sustainability Fair;

Whereas, The Student Government Association intends to purchase catering from Chartwells for the Sustainability Fair to provide food, priced at \$2,368.13;

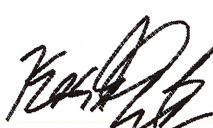

Whereas, the Office of University Sustainability hosted a T-shirt Design Contest open from 1/29/24 to 2/23/24 in advance of the Sustainability Fair to commemorate this year's EarthDay.org theme of Planet vs. Plastics and facilitate more student engagement. The winning art design will be ordered on 100 t-shirts to be given away at the SGA table during the Sustainability Fair at approximately \$1,200;

Whereas, in our efforts to be the exemplary plastic-free event on campus, plastic alternatives will be ordered from sustainable vendor, EcoChoice at a total of \$107.32;

Now Therefore, the Senate of the Student Body resolves to expend \$3,675.45 from the Legislative Branch Line Item of the Student Government Association for the purpose of providing vegetarian/vegan catering, plastic-free food ware, marketing and t-shirt giveaways for the biannual Sustainability Fair, to be held on April 4th 2024.

Senate Bill Transmission Form

This bill is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the bill has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The bill is presented on this day and at this hour for signature or veto.

<i>SB 04 029</i>			
Date Introduced:	<i>2/24/2024</i>		
Committees Assigned:	(1) Appropriations Committee (2) Rules and Administration Committee		
Appropriations Committee: <i>03/19/2024</i>	3 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Rules and Administration Committee : <i>03/19/2024</i>	5 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor: <i>03/25/2024</i>	22 <i>For</i>	1 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
			
_____ Signature of the Senate President	_____ Signature of the Senate President Pro Tempore		

Presidential Signature of a Senate Bill

On this day, at this time, and in this place, the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this bill to the desk of the President of the Student Body for signature or veto. The Senate has passed this bill and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their signatures to affirm that the bill has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

SB 04 029



Kaily LaChapelle, Senate President



Tiara Campbell, Senate President Pro-Tempore



Karina Hernandez, Senate Floor Leader



Lara Raggio, Comptroller



Alexander P. Sutton, Student Body President

