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S.Res.2021.11 The Rollins Sustainability Act

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S.Res.2021.11

The Rollins Sustainability Act

Sponsor(s): Bobby Sena

Co-Sponsor(s)- Charlie Lin

December 9th, 2020

Whereas: *Rollins College will dedicate supplemental support towards the benefit of sustainability on campus.*

Whereas: *Unused plots of land with bare grass (Lawns that use St. Augustine grass, Bermuda grass, etc.) are not beneficial to the environment because they encourage runoff water to absorb pesticides and chemicals which then go into our oceans, rivers, streams, etc., they don't attract pollinators and they prevent ecosystems from developing, empty lawns use a significant amount of water, and they make little to no use of the available land for environmental sustainability.*

Whereas: *Florida Native Plant species are beneficial to the environment as they don't require many pesticides or chemicals and don't need to be watered as much unless a drought occurs. Florida Native Plant species conserve water, resources, and attract wildlife (butterflies, birds, pollinators) that can directly benefit the environment of Rollins College.*

Whereas: *Growing Floridian Native Plant Species is cost effective.*

Whereas: *Florida Native Plant species upkeep is easy and simple.*

Whereas: *Plant's first 3-6 months of life are the most important and require the most attention. Growing or planting any plant species, for the most part, is best during the fall because of factors such as the weather, the availability of volunteers, and the fact that the plants will begin blossoming in Spring when planted in Fall.*

Whereas: *Drip irrigation conserves water, is cost effective, prevents plant diseases, and*

is already in place on some parts of Rollins campus.

Whereas many members of Administration, faculty and staff, and the student body are in support of growing more Native Plant species on campus along with dedicating more space to the benefit of sustainability:

Now, therefore,

Be it Hereby Resolved, the Student Government Association of Rollins College will:

- (1) Advocate for Rollins College to agree to a two year commitment in which Rollins College will agree to introduce 5-10 Native Florida Plant Species to Rollins Campus and allocate a portion of unused land to the benefit of sustainability.
 - a. The plot of land behind Ward Hall and Elizabeth hall directly next to the temporary greenhouse would be the proposed plot of land to begin sustainability efforts;
 - b. Native Plant Species will include, but will not be limited to Understory Tree species, Hardwood tree species, Perennials, Woody Ornamentals, Pine Species, Native Cedar Tree Species, Pollinator Plants such as Beauty Berries or Butterfly bushes, etc.;
 - c. The two year agreement plan will be discussed in the Spring of 2021, and the course of action decided will be enacted by the Fall of 2021; and
 - d. The two year agreement will be considered complete, should it not have received an extension, by the Fall of 2022.
- (2) Support the potential establishment of a diverse native plant species garden in the area behind Ward and Elizabeth hall as a way to meet the requirements of the agreement.
 - a. Diverse native plant species garden would be a contained gardening space that only includes Floridian native plant species and will be utilized as an interactive garden for students and participating classes; and
 - b. Participating classes and students will volunteer to help maintain the garden space and help to expand the project.
- (3) Work directly with the Sustainability program, Rollins College landscapers, the Social Impact Hub, and Rollins administration to ensure the agreement is maintained and achieved.
- (4) Create an official committee comprised of administration, faculty/staff, and students to represent this agreement and the ideas that will come from it
 - a. The initial committee that will work on this will be assembled by SGA Senator, Bobby Sena by January 22nd;
 - b. The committee's members and decisions will be presented during the old

business section of SGA meetings; and

- c. The official team will be open to any ideas and student participation. (5) Set aside a total budget of \$500 for any project conceived from this agreement a. The budget will be given to the official assembled committee that represents and works on this agreement;*
- b. The money will directly benefit any course of action taken by the students and will be used in conjunction with other donations to support and enact a sustainable plan;*
- c. Any part of the funds not spent by the end of the fall semester of 2022 will be donated to Mead Garden and their conservation efforts;*
- d. The budget for this agreement and the projects to stem from it can be reassessed and voted on during SGA meetings by SGA senators; and e. Any SGA senator can propose a reform to the budget.*
- (6) The two-year agreement will be reviewed, reassessed, or updated at SGA's final meeting for the school year for the through the fall semester of 2022 to ensure objectives are achievable, actively worked upon, and to receive student feedback.*
- a. The term 'final SGA meeting' refers to the last student government meeting before the end of the academic year; and*
- b. The two-year agreement plan will be discussed for potential reforms or amendments and will be part of the old business section of the final SGA meeting meeting as a means to encourage student participation in sustainability efforts.*