

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAR-55009

Date introduced: November 14th, 2018

Author(s): Speaker Lorine, Chair Bryan

Sponsor(s): Vice-Chair Syed, Vice-Chair Akhtar, Vice-Chair Terrier, Senator Caceres, Senator Vicklund, Senator Birhiray, Senator Esponda, Senator Jeffrey, Senator Chang, Senator Pham, Senator Pen, Senator Campbell, Senator Potts

Committee: Student Life

Draft: Final

The Straw Initiative Resolution

Whereas, the University of Houston is committed to increased sustainability in its five-year strategic plan;

Whereas, the World Wildlife Organization reports that plastic as a result of single-use plastic items “has been found in an estimated 90% of all seabirds and in all sea turtle species... [as well as] within the next decade, there could be a pound of plastic for every three pounds of fish in the ocean.”¹

Whereas, the University of Portland – Oregon has been the first University in the United States to successfully ban plastic straws, with many other colleges and universities following suit;²

Whereas, a phased transition to a plastic straw-free campus would be in support of the University of Houston’s Auxiliary Services’ goals for long-term sustainability at on-campus dining facilities, in partnership with Chartwells;

Whereas, based on the results of a random survey created by the Student Life Committee of 197 University of Houston students, 81.7% reported wanting a plastic straw-free campus and 75.1% being in favor of using paper straws.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the Student Government Association of the University of Houston resolves to support this “Straw Initiative”, which will involve a phased transition to an eventual removal of all plastic straws at all on-campus restaurants and dining areas;

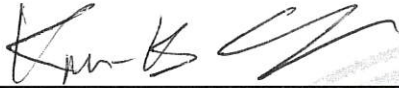
Be it further resolved, that the Student Government Association is willing to work with Chartwells to explore alternative straw options that are conscious to students with disabilities.



Cameron Barrett
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 2/6/19

APPROVED



Kim Lorine
Speaker of Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 2/6/19

Sources

¹<https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/summer-2018/articles/a-small-straw-s-big-environmental-impact>

²<http://www.bamco.com/press-releases/university-of-portland-and-knox-college-among-first-u-s-universities-to-ban-plastic-straws/>

