Establish Carbon Emissions Reduction Goals
Senate Resolution No. 31

SUBMITTED BY: Nicholas Pierce '19, Senator
CO-SPONSORS: Anmol Almast '18, Senator
               Zoë James '18, Senator
ENDORSED BY: The Senate Campus Services Committee
              Korin Carpenter '16, Member of University Council on Sustainability
              Ulrik Soderstrom '16, President of 2016 Class Council
              Grant Dever '16, Students' Association President
              Paul Jaquish '17, Chair of Senate Elections and Rules Committee
              Andria Rabenold '18, Senator
              Greenspace
              Grassroots
              Eco-Reps
              Engineers for a Sustainable World
              The Senate Campus Services Committee

WHEREAS, in March of 2008, University of Rochester President Joel Seligman created
the University Council on Sustainability and charged it to develop a University-wide
vision for environmental sustainability that also addressed academic and research
initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2014, the University Council on Sustainability adopted a vision
statement stating that the University "aims to be a leader in promoting a sustainable
society through our academic, education, research, patient care, and health programs,
in the operation of our campuses and facilities, and in our interactions with the
community"; and,

WHEREAS, in the aforementioned vision statement, the University Council on
Sustainability affirmed its commitment to sustainable operating practices through the
responsible management of building design, construction, renovation, landscape

1 https://www.rochester.edu/sustainability/vision.html
practices, energy use, water and waste management, emissions, transportation, and procurement, within a framework of regulatory compliance and fiscal prudence; and,

WHEREAS, the University Council on Sustainability has yet to develop and propose any specific quantitative carbon emissions reduction goals, notwithstanding the adoption of a vision statement aimed toward improving university-wide sustainability practices; and,

WHEREAS, by 2010, many of our peer institutions\(^2\) have identified the size and severity of their carbon footprints, established quantitative carbon reduction goals and specific timeframes to achieve such goals, and have since utilized more energy-efficient practices to mitigate or neutralize carbon emissions; and,

WHEREAS, our peer institutions have been reducing their carbon emissions on average by 2-3% per year; and,

WHEREAS, it is clear after reviewing the goals and progress of our peer institutions, that the establishment of carbon emissions reduction goals would be beneficial not only to the campus environment, but also to the competitiveness of the university; and,

WHEREAS, given that there are ample and sound incentives for establishing quantitative carbon emissions reduction goals, and that the establishment of these goals is essential to the further modernization of the University, it would be valuable and sensible for the University Council on Sustainability to develop and propose quantitative carbon emissions reduction goals; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Association Government Senate urges the Executive Branch to advocate to the University Council on Sustainability to develop and propose quantitative carbon emissions reduction goals of 2-3% per year and an overall competitive minimum of 35%\(^3\), and implores that the University Council on Sustainability advises President Joel Seligman to sign the proposed goals by January 1, 2017.

\[\text{Signatures}\]

Ethan Bidna
Speaker, Students’ Association Senate

Grant Dever
President, Students’ Association

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\(^2\) The Consortium on Financing Higher Education (COFHE) includes 35 top college and universities, often considered as peer institutions of the University of Rochester.

\(^3\) Overall competitive minimum of X%: the total percent reduction goal over the specified amount of time.
Senate Votes: Yes: 15  No: 0  Abs: 1  Date: 02/29/2016