Sponsor: Senator Heid  
Student Senate Action: Passed/Failed/Tabled

A Bill
To allocate $4,442 to purchase new waste receptacles for the IMU in an effort to reduce compost and recycling contamination

Section 1. Short Title
This resolution may be titled as, “IMU Waste Receptacle Purchase.”

Section 2. Discussion
Whereas, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and previous UISG Director of Sustainability Ioannis Koutsonikolis, a series of waste audits were conducted to gauge the levels of waste stream contamination in the IMU.

Whereas, waste stream contamination levels in the Iowa Memorial Union are far above acceptable levels. Compost contamination should not exceed 1%, but past waste audits revealed upwards of 50% of waste in the compost stream was not compostable. Recycling contamination also exceeded 25%.

Whereas, the waste management system in the Iowa Memorial Union (in particular, the landfill, recycling, and compost bins in dining and auxiliary locations) promotes incorrect waste disposal. Currently, no color scheme based upon waste disposal exists, making it difficult to distinguish waste, recycling, and composting bins. The appropriate color scheme of waste bins are as follows landfill (black), recycling (blue), compost (green or gold).

Whereas, the total cost of acquiring new IMU waste bins is for a pilot program is $13,384. This includes purchasing 4 large sets of bins and 2 small sets of bins that will be placed in the Hawkeye room and the River room. These new sets of bins will serve as a pilot run, and another series of waste audits will be conducted to investigate the effect of adequate behavioral prompting on waste management. This information will be used to write a grant to redo the entirety of the IMU waste management system. It will ensure that all of the bins have adequate behavioral promoting.
Whereas, UISG’s Green Initiatives Fund will allocate $4,500 towards the new waste receptacles.

Whereas, The IMU will allocate $4,442 toward the new waste receptacles.

Whereas, a similar piece of legislation was brought to the Student Senate during the 2018-2019 Student Senate Session and was tabled due to a low contingency budget.

Whereas, the University of Iowa pays for its waste management services. If recycling/compost is too contaminated to be properly sorted and disposed, money allocated toward these services is essentially wasted.

Section 3. Position

Therefore, be it resolved, the UISG will contribute $4,442 towards the purchase of new waste receptacles for select locations in the IMU.

Therefore, be it further resolved, the new compost bin system will coordinate with the common color schemes associated with waste diversion - landfill (black), recycling (blue), compost (green). The color scheme was informed by the advice of a UI cognitive psychologist.

Therefore, be it further resolved, the UISG Director of Sustainability and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment will conduct a waste audit to determine the efficacy of said receptacles.

Section 5. Enactment Clause

Be it enacted by University of Iowa Student Government upon the signature of President Mills.

_________________________  Speaker of the Senate
E Lenz

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated from the 2019-2020 Student Senate Session.

_________________________  Secretary
Caren Li

APPROVED on ______________________ 2019

UISG President
Noel Mills

_________________________  Noël Mills

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