

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1204

TITLE: AUTHORIZATION ORDERING SG PROJECT LINE FUNDS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING THE ‘TANGIBLE HIGHER RESOURCE INVESTMENT FOR THRIFT’ (THRIFT) PROJECT

AUTHOR(S): Senator Zoe Richter, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton

SPONSOR(S): Senator Cec Wood-Barron, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Simone Liang, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Isha Khan, Pride Student Union President Jonathan C. Stephens, Senator Vivian Phung, Senator Daniel Permane, Senator Thomas Watson Hewitt III, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Conor Ruffin, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Meagan Lamey, Senator Hunter Monson, Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo

WHEREAS, the Student Senate of the University of Florida Student Government unanimously passed SSB 2023-1211, ‘Senate Resolution Promoting and Supporting On-Campus Thrifting Initiatives,’ which acknowledged the socioeconomic, community, and environmental-based benefits of thrifting, and stipulated a need to establish a student government-sponsored on-campus pop-up thrift store [1]; and,

WHEREAS, thrifting is becoming an increasingly popular and lucrative sector of the fashion industry, projected to overcome fast fashion by 2029 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, studies show young people, particularly members of Generation Z and Millennials are eco-conscious consumers. Roughly 61% of Generation Z and Millennials consider themselves sustainability-focused, compared to 51% of consumers overall. [3]; and,

WHEREAS, studies show that Generation Z, in particular wants to quit or cut back on participating in fast fashion due to their wishes to shop more sustainably and ethically [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the average Generation Z shopper plans to purchase roughly twelve new apparel items each ‘back-to-school’ season [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the swapping of twelve new clothing items for thrifted ones would collectively save nearly 10 billion pounds of carbon dioxide, roughly equivalent to the effect of planting 116,000,000 trees [4]; and,

WHEREAS, In 2000, the University of California Berkeley established the ‘Re-Used Stuff Emporium,’ a popup clothing swap to reduce waste and benefit the campus community. In 2016, the Emporium expanded into a full service thrift store in the Martin Luther King Student Union, supporting second-hand clothing exchanges and thrifting year-round ever since [5]; and,

WHEREAS, In 2005, the University of Texas at Austin established the Campus Environmental Center ‘Trash to Treasure’ initiative, whereby annual donation drives collect second-hand items to resell to students for \$1 per item within a university space [6]. Furthermore, the university created ‘UT Outpost,’ a free on-campus food pantry and career closet that redistributed second-hand clothing to students in need [7]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2023, the University of Michigan’s Central Student Government announced the establishment of a pop-up free thrift store on campus for students to come together around the benefits of thrifting [8]; and,

WHEREAS, Florida State University hosts a weekly on-campus market, ‘Market Wednesday’ which hosts local and student owned businesses including second hand design businesses such as ‘Tallycore’ which sells reimaged second hand clothing for less than \$20 per item [9]; and,

WHEREAS, the THRIFT Pilot Project would provide funding for a popup thrift store sponsored by student government in conjunction with the Reitz Union for the donation and sale of used clothing for and by students; and,

WHEREAS, the supplies necessary for the start of the THRIFT Pilot Project shall be purchased from the authorized budget herein or donated by the local community; and,

WHEREAS, as stipulated in Article IV, Section 4(a) of the University of Florida Student Government Constitution, the Student Body President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Student Body; and,

WHEREAS, as stipulated in Article VI, Section 4(h) of the University of Florida Student Government Constitution, a power of the Student Body President is to “exercise all other powers and duties provided by Student Body law;” and,

WHEREAS, as stipulated in Article IV, Section 4(e) of the University of Florida Student Government Constitution, a power of the Student Body President is to “create and appoint committees or commissions not provided in this Constitution, if deemed necessary, provided that these bodies do not contravene Student Body law;” and,

WHEREAS, Student Senate Bill 2022-1026 allocated \$138,000.00 USD into the line item entitled “SG Projects Line” under “Administrative Account-602” under the Student Body President’s control; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDERED THAT the Student Body President disburses \$2,000.00 USD from the FY23-24 Budget line entitled “SG Projects Line” under “Administrative Account602” to create the THRIFT Project,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDERED THAT the Student Body President shall convene a special commission overseeing the THRIFT Project, and the operation of the \$2,000.00 allocated funds (named at the discretion of the Student Body President), with Zoe Richter as the Chair of the Commission, and Nathaniel Pelton as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Proviso: A copy of this authorization will be sent to the following people: Student Body President Olivia Green, UF Office of Sustainability Program Coordinator Kaylee August, UF Office of Sustainability Coordinator Corey Farmer, Senior Director of the J. Wayne Reitz Union Dwayne Isaacs, and University of Florida President Benjamin Sasse.

The Commission on THRIFT will be created immediately upon the passage and subsequent signing of the authorization herein.

All excess funds not utilized by the project shall return to the FY23-24 Budget Line item entitled “SG Projects Line” under “Administrative Account-602”.

[1]<https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SSB2023-1211.pdf>

[2]<https://www.npr.org/2021/06/18/1006207991/when-second-hand-becomes-vintage-gen-z-has-made-thrifting-a-big-business>

[3]https://cf-assets-tup.thredup.com/resale_report/2023/thredUP_2023_Resale_Report_FINAL.pdf

[4]<https://newsroom.thredup.com/news/thredup-teams-up-with-stranger-things-star-priah-ferguson-to-launch-an-fast-fashion-confessional-hotline-p7la4>

[5]<https://reuse.berkeley.edu/about/club-history/>

[6]<https://sustainability.utexas.edu/news/student-group-encourages-conscious-consumerism-through-thrifting#:~:text=On%20campus%2C%20the%20student%20initiative,leader%20of%20Trash%20to%20Treasure.>

[7]<https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/utoutpost.php>

[8]<https://www.csg.umich.edu/post/thrift-store-2023>

[9]<https://eu.fsunews.com/story/life/2022/09/06/local-and-student-owned-businesses-thrive-market-wednesday/7973857001/>