

Data Introduced: October 29, 2019
Date Voted Upon: October 29, 2019

Resolution FA-04-19

A Resolution in Support of Fair Trade Practices at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham Undergraduate Student Government Association has the honor and responsibility of representing the entire undergraduate student voice; and

WHEREAS it is the duty of the USGA to lead the undergraduate student body towards positive and relevant changes; and

WHEREAS what we choose to purchase, eat, and drink impacts farmers, workers, artisans and the environment; and

WHEREAS growers of coffee, tea, chocolate and other products produced in Latin America, Africa, and Asia are often paid less than a living wage, and forced child labor may be involved; and

WHEREAS conventional means of growing coffee and other commodities are often damaging to the environment, harming local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS Fair Trade ensures fair wages, safe working conditions, and environmental sustainability, and prohibits forced labor of any kind; and

WHEREAS many campus groups around the country and the world already support Fair Trade; and

WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham is committed to including sustainability in every facet of our enterprise: education, research, patient care, economic development, and service, and supporting Fair Trade is an effective way to put into practice the principles of environmental sustainability and social justice; and

WHEREAS by becoming a Fair Trade University, UAB will demonstrate a commitment to sustainability; and

WHEREAS by becoming a Fair Trade University, UAB will more effectively educate the campus community about Fair Trade; and

WHEREAS by becoming a Fair Trade University, UAB will inspire other institutions and organizations to support Fair Trade; and

WHEREAS by becoming a Fair Trade University, UAB will enhance its image as a leader in sustainability and social justice issues; and

WHEREAS by becoming a Fair Trade University, UAB will be the first institution in the state of Alabama to commit to supporting Fair Trade practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UAB USGA, representing the undergraduate student population, encourages UAB to dedicate itself to be a Fair Trade University which would consist of the following:

The university will work with its food service contractor to make Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and other Fair Trade products available in its dining facilities, consistent with the terms of food service contracts and where the resulting costs do not significantly jeopardize board rate costs; and

The university will work with its food service contractor to make Fair Trade products available at catered meetings hosted by the school, consistent with the terms of the food service contract; and

The college/university will work with its food service contractor and/or office supplier to make Fair Trade products available for administrative and faculty offices whenever possible and consistent with the terms of existing contracts.

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