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2 **Resolution 52-R-8**
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4 **Introduced:** November 22, 2015

5 **Author(s):** Senator J. Honig, Senator T. Novick-Finder

6 **Co-Sponsor(s):** Senator L. Burkhart-Lima, Senator K. Mashian

7 **Approved:** TBD

8 **Topic:** A resolution in support of the implementation of a Green Fee
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10 **WHEREAS**, the values of Environmental Sustainability, Interdisciplinary Learning,
11 Student Engagement, and Social Responsibility are ingrained in the institution of Pitzer
12 College; AND

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14 **WHEREAS**, students are encouraged to apply Pitzer's core values and what we learn in
15 the classroom to solve issues through experiential learning; AND

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17 **WHEREAS**, Pitzer has demonstrated its commitment to environmental sustainability
18 through: 1) its commitment to the ACUPCC and carbon neutrality by 2050, 2) its
19 adoption of a LEED building certification for all new construction, 3) the founding of the
20 Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, 4) its commitment to
21 divesting the endowment of substantially all fossil fuel holdings as a part of a
22 comprehensive climate action model, 5) its submission of its Sustainability Tracking
23 Assessment & Rating System report, and finally 6) the inclusion of environmental
24 sustainability as a core value of the college; AND

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26 **WHEREAS**, the Pitzer Green Initiative Fund (PGIF) was established in the Fall of 2014
27 by Pitzer students committed to the core value of environmental sustainability; AND

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29 **WHEREAS**, the Pitzer Green Initiative Fund seeks to engage students in social
30 responsibility and environmental sustainability by encouraging innovative and creative
31 solutions to environmental problems; AND

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33 **WHEREAS**, the PGIF aims to foster a collaborative and interdisciplinary learning
34 process and will enable students to take ownership of their community by constructing a
35 sustainable vision for the future of Pitzer College; AND

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WHEREAS, the PGIF provides grants for students at Pitzer College to pursue innovative sustainability initiatives; AND

WHEREAS, the PGIF has been funded for its pilot year (2014-2015) by the CLC Strategic Initiative Fund and the proceeds of Re-Room; AND

WHEREAS, the PGIF has already funded five projects: 1) a fleet of student-built bamboo bicycles, 2) Re-Book, 3) an on-campus environmental education program, 4) the installation of signage for recycling receptacles, and 5) the hiring of a summer caretaker for the organic garden; AND

WHEREAS, the PGIF has established guidelines to ensure that students work with faculty advisors and members of the PGIF committee to complete their projects; AND

WHEREAS, the PGIF works closely with a faculty advisor, the Pitzer Sustainability Manager, and the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability; AND

WHEREAS, more than two hundred colleges and universities across the country have some form of a green fee; AND

WHEREAS, given that this fee would be gathered through student activities fees, it is critical that students' opinions are gathered during the process of considering its implementation; AND

WHEREAS, the current Pitzer College Student Senate Constitution does not permit student activities fees to pay student workers, and this committee seeks to support student labor associated with infrastructure implementation; AND

WHEREAS, the structure of this committee more closely resembles a standing committee of the college rather than a student organization, and all funds allocated to this committee are returned to students through sustainability initiatives; AND

WHEREAS, through extensive research, the PGIF has determined that a \$5 per semester "green fee" is consistent with the lower bound of "green fees" at other institutions; AND

WHEREAS, the PGIF recommends that \$5 per semester be added to current Student Activities Fees for the purpose of funding sustainability initiatives on campus through the PGIF;

77 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Pitzer College Student Senate officially
78 endorses the implementation of a \$5 green fee per student per semester, to be
79 administered by the PGIF; AND

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81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, members of Student Senate will work closely with the
82 PGIF Committee to ensure that the aforementioned fee be institutionalized; AND

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84 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, upon passage, a copy of this resolution be delivered to
85 Interim President Thomas Poon; Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Carlisle;
86 Interim Dean of Faculty Nigel Boyle; and Treasurer Yuet Lee.

Andrew Lydens, President

Chance Kavar, Secretary