A Resolution Regarding Sustainability Education in Orientation and UNIV100 and Similar Courses

WHEREAS the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students, and

WHEREAS the University of Maryland, College Park has outlined numerous sustainability-focused goals, which include a pledge to “integrate sustainability broadly across the curriculum and student life,” and

WHEREAS RHA has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability education and programming through the establishment of the Sustainability Committee of Maryland (SCOM) by SRA003F 2011, and passage of SEB001S 2014, SCOM001S 2016, and SCOM002S 2016, and

WHEREAS all first year students are required to attend New Student Orientation, and many also register for UNIV100 and similar courses, and

WHEREAS New Student Orientation and UNIV100 and similar courses educate students on important issues pertaining to on-campus living, and

WHEREAS Orientation Advisors (OAs) can choose to integrate sustainability programming informally into New Student Orientation via skits and discussions, and

WHEREAS UNIV100 and similar courses currently offer instructors the option to include sustainability in the course curriculums, and

WHEREAS sustainability education in UNIV100 and similar courses is usually implemented via programming of the Office of Sustainability Student Sustainability Advisors (SSAs), and

WHEREAS the SSAs have expanded their programming to reach around 75% of UNIV100 and similar courses in the Fall 2015 semester,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RHA strongly urges OAs to prioritize sustainability programming during New Student Orientation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SCOM, the Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATe), and the Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB) work with their respective departments to update materials in the Orientation Virtual Folder to include related sustainability education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SCOM, ReLATe, and DSAB work with their respective departments to incorporate sustainability into Parent & Family Orientation, and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the RHA urges the instructors of UNIV100 and similar courses to include sustainability components in their curriculum.

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Sustainability Committee of Maryland
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http://sustainability.umd.edu/progress/sustainability-goals