A Resolution to Support and Participate in the Trash to Treasure Donation Drive

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

WHEREAS the RHA has shown its continued commitment to encouraging sustainable practices on campus, as well as advancing philanthropic missions, and

WHEREAS the Department of Resident Life (DRL) will pilot an expanded Trash to Treasure (T to T) program for Spring 2012 to divert items from the waste stream during residence hall move-out, expanding previous efforts to donate collected items to charity, and

WHEREAS previous collections organized by DRL over the past decade have involved limited collection sites that were all outdoors and hosted only one day, limiting the scope of the program and leaving it susceptible to interruptions caused by inclement weather, and

WHEREAS this year, DRL aims to increase the percent of trash diverted from the waste stream during move-out through campus-wide collections from May 14th to 18th, expanding the collections of years past to include clothing, school supplies, kitchen items, furniture, small electronics, non-perishable food, etc., and

WHEREAS programs at peer institutions such as Penn State University and Cornell University have resulted in successfully diverting several tons of items from the waste stream annually, and

WHEREAS several on-campus partners have already expressed their interest and investment in T to T, including the Office of Sustainability and its University Sustainability Fund, the Department of Residential Facilities, Facilities Management, the Department of Transportation Services, and two community partners who will collect the donated items, Good Will and Help by Phone,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RHA support the T to T collection by advertising for the program with flyers provided by DRL, as well as word-of-mouth and electronic advertising through Facebook, Twitter, and/or Hall/Area council emails, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RHA members, including Hall/Area Council members, Senators, and the Executive Board, put in their best efforts to volunteer their time to serve as Terrapin Treasure Hunters, which would involve staffing a collection station for at least one hour during the T to T collection drive, and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the RHA encourage residents to participate in T to T, both in donating unwanted items during spring move-out, and also in volunteering during the drive.

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