

RESOLUTION No. 2018-19-10

AUTHORED BY: Isabel Sanchez, AS Environmental Sustainability Officer
Jazmin Sandoval, Associated Students President

REFERRED TO: A.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ACTION TAKEN: April 22, 2019

SUBJECT: Recognition of the Green New Deal

WHEREAS, the Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for over 7,500 students; and,

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Associated Students of Humboldt State University serves to "assist in the protection of rights and interests of the individual student and the student body," and to "stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the University community"; and,

WHEREAS, this institution claims Humboldt State University as being the "campus of choice for individuals who seek above all else to improve the human condition and our environment," as well as the vision of being exemplary partners with our communities, renowned for social and environmental responsibility and action, and believing the key to our common future will be the individual citizen who acts in good conscience and engages in informed action.¹ And,

WHEREAS, capitalism is an economic system driven by the exploitation and oppression of the working class and other marginalized communities for the benefit of those in the upper echelons of society, the capitalist class², and

WHEREAS, since the birth of a capitalist system in the late 13th century, the means of production has been privately owned by wealthy individuals and corporations who prioritized profit over people's needs, while the workers did the actual work what the capitalists owned, and

¹ *Office of the President*, president.humboldt.edu/vision.

² McGrath, Corey. "What Is Capitalism?" *Liberation School*, liberationschool.org/02-what-is-capitalism-html/.

WHEREAS, the global working class has experienced the symptoms of the capitalist system which has produced the majority of the social, environmental and political issues we see today, including but not limited to: homelessness, lack of health care, racism, sexism, unemployment, poverty, privatization of education, and much more, and

WHEREAS, since 1492 the colonization of the western hemisphere resulted in the genocide of 95% of Indigenous populations and the enslavement of Africans, eventually creating the capitalist state known as the United States, and

WHEREAS, the discovery of gold in 1849 brought white settlers to the Humboldt Bay, and resulted in the destruction of Indigenous peoples and culture,

WHEREAS, the discovery of gold in California ushered in the most unimaginable, dramatic, immediate and rapid growth of the lumber industry, in which California's population grew four fold between 1850 and 1860 who demanded logs giving rise to the capitalist class along the Redwood Coast including Humboldt Bay. And,

WHEREAS, the selling of redwood trees from Humboldt County for profit came at the expense of Indigenous peoples who experienced genocide by the hands of the colonial settlers, and is a specific and major reason to why only 95% of endangered old coast redwoods have been cut down, with only 5% remaining. And,

WHEREAS, during the Great Depression fifteen million workers were unemployed. Lacking any social safety net, malnutrition and the threat of starvation were the reality for many. Under growing pressure from the communist-led movement of organized labor, President Roosevelt implemented his "New Deal" through a series of reforms to create jobs and stabilize the economy³, and

WHEREAS, FDR presented his New Deal to keep revolution at bay as the mass labor movement threatened the very survival of the capitalist system itself, and

WHEREAS, we are currently in a very different place in regards to the political consciousness of the U.S. working class, but that can always shift — and shift quickly — as more workers recognize their power in united action and the urgent need to address the looming catastrophe. The recent successes of the teacher strikes nationwide as well as the airport worker actions that decisively ended the government shutdown bode well for a militant upsurge in worker mobilizations, and

³ Landis, Tina. "The Green New Deal: A Real Solution or Political Theater? [...]" *Liberation News*, 16 Feb. 2019, www.liberationnews.org/the-green-new-deal-a-real-solution-or-political-theater/.

WHEREAS, we need to be urgent in matters of climate change and environmental destruction, degradation, and rising sea levels, threatening Earth's current inhabitants; human beings, animals, plants, etc, and

WHEREAS, in the 2012 and 2016 Presidential elections, Green Party candidate, Jill Stein, presented in her electoral program a Green New Deal which presented alternatives to the current capitalist system, and

WHEREAS, the Green Party's Green New Deal presented the following summarized programs to provide relief and create an economy that makes our communities sustainable, healthy and just⁴:

1. Economic Bill of Rights

- a. The right to employment through a Full Employment Program
- b. Worker's rights including the right to a living wage, to a safe workplace, to fair trade, and to organize a union at work without fear of firing or reprisal.
- c. The right to quality health care which will be achieved through a single-payer Medicare-for-All program.
- d. The right to a tuition-free, quality, federally funded, local controlled public education system from pre-school through college.
- e. The right to decent affordable housing
- f. The right to accessible and affordable utilities
- g. The right to fair taxation

2. A Green Transition

- a. Invest in green business
- b. Prioritize green research
- c. Provide green jobs by enacting the Full Employment Program

3. Real Financial Reform

- a. Relieve the debt overhang holding back the economy by reducing homeowner and student debt burdens.
- b. Democratize monetary policy to bring about public control of the money supply and credit creation.
- c. Break up the oversized banks that are "too big to fail."
- d. End taxpayer-funded bailouts for banks, insurers, and other financial companies.
- e. Regulate all financial derivatives and require them to be traded on open exchanges.

⁴ "Green New Deal." *W*www.gp.org, www.gp.org/green_new_deal.

- f. Restore the Glass-Steagall separation of depository commercial banks from speculative investment banks.
- g. Establish a 90% tax on bonuses for bailed out bankers.
- h. Support the formation of federal, state, and municipal public-owned banks that function as non-profit utilities.

4. A Functioning Democracy

- a. Revoke corporate personhood
- b. Protect our right to vote
- c. Enact the Voter Bill of Rights that will:
 - i. guarantee us a voter-marked paper ballot for all voting;
 - ii. require that all votes are counted before election results are released;
 - iii. replace partisan oversight of elections with non-partisan election commissions;
 - iv. celebrate our democratic aspirations by making Election Day a national holiday;
 - v. bring simplified, safe same-day voter registration to the nation so that no qualified voter is barred from the polls;
 - vi. do away with so-called "winner take all" elections in which the "winner" does not have the support of most of the voters, and replace that system with instant runoff voting and proportional representation, systems most advanced countries now use to good effect;
 - vii. replace big money control of election campaigns with full public financing and free and equal access to the airwaves;
 - viii. guarantee equal access to the ballot and to the debates to all qualified candidates;
 - ix. abolish the Electoral College and implement direct election of the President;
 - x. restore the vote to ex-offenders who've paid their debt to society; and,
 - xi. enact Statehood for the District of Columbia so that those Americans have representation in Congress and full rights to self-rule like the rest of us.
- d. Protect local democracy and democratic rights
- e. Create a Corporation for Economic Democracy
- f. Strengthen media democracy
- g. Protect our personal liberty and freedoms by:
- h. Rein in the military-industrial complex by
 - i. reducing military spending by 50% and closing U.S. military bases around the world;
 - ii. restoring the National Guard as the centerpiece of our system of national defense; and,

- iii. creating a new round of nuclear disarmament initiatives.


WHEREAS, The Green New Deal, presented to Congress, by AOC on Feb. 7, 2019 has been touted in the mainstream media as bold action on the climate crisis, yet lacks many qualities of the Green New Deal as presented by the Green Party⁵, and let it be


RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Board neither support nor reject the Green New Deal as presented by AOC, but continue to advocate for a version of the Green Party's Green New Deal, and

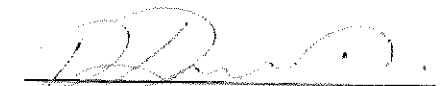
RESOLVED, following a Board of Directors vote to adopt a version of the Green New Deal, a committee be formed with staff, faculty, general students, a representative from the Humboldt Sunrise Movement, AS President as chair of the committee or delegate, and Native American/Indigenous American student representatives to implement the chosen Green New Deal at Humboldt State University and the City of Arcata; and be it further

RESOLVED, while the Green New Deal, as presented by AOC, has good intentions and lacks actual accountability, it is the students of Humboldt State and other working class people of Humboldt County who can actually address and tackle climate change by taking radical direct action without relying on any capitalist politician whether they are Democrat or Republican; and be it finally resolved

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to CSU Chancellor Dr. Timothy White, HSU President Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, Vice Presidents, College Deans, Arcata City Manager Karen Diemer, HSU Faculty, The California Faculty Association of Humboldt State Chapter, ITEPP, INRSEP, Eureka NAACP, CRGS Department, Earth Guardians, CCAT, Womxn's Resource Center, Multicultural Center, CNRS department, LCAE, AACAE, ADPIC, Black Student Union, EPIC, Humboldt Sunrise Movement, The Humboldt County Green Party, Mecha de Humboldt State, Scholars Without Borders, Students for Quality Education, Chairman Ted Hernandez of the Wiyot Tribal Council, Tia Oros Peters of Seventh Generation Fund, the Lumberjack Newspaper, and El Lenador Newspaper.


Jazmin Sandoval
A.S. President


Isabel Sanchez-Pacheco, Co-author
AS Environmental Sustainability Officer


Paola Valdovinos
Chair & Legislative Vice President

⁵ "Green New Deal." www.gp.org, www.gp.org/green_new_deal.