

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Sense of Senate Resolution (SSR) Number SSR0718S

Date of Senate Approval 05/03/2018

IDC 4:

Sense of the Senate Resolution

WHEREAS The pursuit of environmental sustainability is valued by students as resolved by the University of North Carolina Asheville (“the University”) Student Government Association and the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments;

WHEREAS It is a goal of the University to serve as a model of environmental awareness and responsibility, endorsed by the Faculty Senate;

WHEREAS UNC Asheville’s current Strategic Plan states three long-held core values that we believe need to be at the center of all the initiatives we undertake: Diversity and inclusion, innovation, and sustainability;

WHEREAS It is the policy of the University’s Board of Governors that the University, including the System Office, the constituent institutions, and affiliated entities, shall establish sustainable development and resource management, or ‘sustainability’ as a core value of institutional operations, planning, capital construction, and purchasing practices;

WHEREAS UNC Asheville’s Board of Trustees and Foundation Board have recognized their respective roles in seeking solutions to environmental global issues using the educational, research and financial resources of the University, and the opportunity to influence the development of clean energy strategies through the investment of University’s endowment funds;

WHEREAS Our investment decisions affect the quality of our students’ lives at UNCA and beyond, and our investments should support an abundant, just, and healthy future;

WHEREAS Our current endowment investment management approach does not allow the University to track the specific nature and type of our endowment assets in order to assess alignment with the University’s core values;

WHEREAS Transparency and shared governance are fundamental to and characteristics of the Liberal Arts University, and;

WHEREAS The mission of fossil fuel divestment is valued by students as resolved by the University of North Carolina Asheville (“the University”) Student Government Association;

WHEREAS The “ESG” (Environmental, Social, Governance) student-advised endowment fund established by the Board of Trustees in 2016 has demonstrated the potential for successful asset allocation and investment objective policies using socially responsible investment strategies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The University of North Carolina at Asheville continue to explore sustainable investment strategies through an inclusive and transparent stakeholder process; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The University develop an investment-related values statement appropriate to this liberal arts institution.