

Faculty Senate Routing Form  
(action/proposal attached)

I. Item Title: Resolution on Climate Change

a) Brief Description: Western Carolina University (WCU) Faculty Senate hereby calls upon Chancellor Kelli R. Brown and university leadership to develop and implement a WCU Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

b) Initiated by: Jake Greear (Dept. of Political Science & Public Policy)

II. Faculty Senate Action:  approved  not approved  other date: 01/19/2022

Comments: After debate, a motion was made to amend the resolution to limit the recommendation to the development and implementation of a WCU Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. The motion to amend passed by Voice Vote (21 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 Abstentions). The vote on the amended resolution followed with the vote given below.

Vote:  Voice Vote, Unanimous  Voice Vote, Majority In Favor  
 Electronic Clicker: 25Ayes 0Nays 0Abstentions

FS Secretary signature: *Erin K. McArthur* date 01/19/2022

III. Provost:  for information  Recognition of Receipt  
 for action.....  approved  not approved

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Person responsible for Implementation: \_\_\_\_\_

Provost signature: *[Signature]* date 26 Jan 22

IV. Chancellor:  for information  Recognition of Receipt  
 for action.....  approved  not approved

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Chancellor signature: *Kelli R Brown* date 1-26-2022

Once finalized copies will be returned to the Provost Office's representative who will scan and distribute electronically to:  
Chancellor  
Provost  
Chair of Faculty Senate  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (for catalog and handbook)  
Associate Dean of Graduate School (for catalog)  
Others (i.e. person responsible for implementation)

Climate Change Resolution

Drafted April 19, 2021 by Jake Greear, WCU Department of Political Science and Public Affairs,  
[jpgreear@wcu.edu](mailto:jpgreear@wcu.edu)

WHEREAS: The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that human caused climate change poses serious risks to the future of humanity, and warns that failing to significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions within the next decade is likely to lead to devastating effects on human life and societal stability in the coming 100 years;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS: These threats are projected by the IPCC, as well as a wide variety of other researchers, to include increased weather emergencies, natural disasters, ecosystem disruptions unprecedented in human history, destruction of population-dense coastal cities from rising sea levels, increasing disease prevalence, and large scale population displacements and refugee crises, all of which are factors known to contribute significantly to economic crises, political destabilization, and warfare;

WHEREAS: The United States of America, the state of North Carolina, and our region are not excluded from these threats;

WHEREAS: The continuance of conditions favorable to societal stability and human flourishing is therefore in imminent and foreseeable danger from global climate change within our students' and our children's lifetimes;

WHEREAS: The very value of the education we provide to students is premised on the continuance of these conditions of human flourishing and societal stability;

WHEREAS: A growing consensus exists among policy experts, political leaders, economists, and stakeholders that carbon pricing (whether by carbon tax or cap-and-trade mechanisms) is the most effective way to quickly reduce GHG emissions, and with proper and achievable safeguards, the most equitable way to reduce them;

WHEREAS: All people and organizations within our society able to discern these dangers have a pressing moral obligation to speak out in the face of the clear and present danger human-caused climate change poses;

WHEREAS Western Carolina University by adopting a Strategic Energy Plan, installing electric vehicle charging stations, solar powered hammock stands with power to charge computers, a solar powered bench with USB chargers for phones . . . has already undertaken numerous sustainability initiatives and implemented many environmentally responsible protocols;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>

Therefore be it RESOLVED that the Western Carolina University (WCU) Faculty Senate hereby calls upon Chancellor Kelli R. Brown and university leadership to develop and implement a WCU Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

## ENDORSEMENT LETTER

*As leaders of higher education institutions, we call upon our elected representatives to act collectively on behalf of current and future generations by putting a price on carbon. We work to prepare our students for thriving futures, over which climate change casts a dark shadow of uncertainty. Putting a price on carbon pollution is an indispensable step we can take to effectively combat climate change.*

*Carbon pricing creates an economy-wide incentive to reduce greenhouse gases in economically efficient ways that can, if revenues are used wisely, benefit low-income households while stimulating job growth. The World Bank has endorsed carbon pricing as a way to accurately account for the external costs of emissions, like crop loss, flood damage, and medical treatments that result from heat waves and other climate change disasters. Thousands of businesses support carbon pricing for its transparent and predictable approach.*

*Dozens of countries and jurisdictions across the world have already enacted carbon pricing mechanisms, and the evidence is in: carbon pricing enables renewable energy to flourish, helps phase out polluting energy sources, and lowers emissions. A strong carbon price will rise quickly enough to work without burdening low-income and middle-class families, and won't create new dependencies on profits from carbon-based energy.*

*It is time for the United States to lead on this defining issue of our time, and protect the health and well-being of current and future generations. By making carbon-intensive industries pay a fair share of the costs of their pollution, we will have cleaner air and healthier communities, and prevent the most devastating effects of climate change. We therefore ask our elected officials to proactively work to enact a carbon price on the state and national level.*

## SIGNERS

### **Founding Signers:**

1. Valerie Smith, President, Swarthmore College
2. Neil Weissman, Interim President, Dickinson College
3. Michael S. Roth, President, Wesleyan University

4. Jon Chenette, Interim President, Vassar College
5. Melvin Oliver, President, Pitzer College

**Leadership Circle:**

6. Leon Botstein, President, Bard College
7. Robert Goldberg, Interim President, Barnard College
8. Mariko Silver, President, Bennington College
9. Dianne Harrison, President, California State University Northridge
10. Gayle E. Hutchinson, President, California State University Chico
11. Robert S. Nelsen, President, California State University Sacramento
12. Greg P. Smith, President, Central Community College Nebraska
13. David Finegold, President, Chatham University
14. Brian W. Casey, President, Colgate University
15. Katherine Bergeron, President, Connecticut College
16. Lee Pelton, President, Emerson College
17. Marco Valera, Fordham University
18. Daniel R. Porterfield, President, Franklin and Marshall College
19. Robert Allen, President, Green Mountain College
20. Kim Benston, President, Haverford College
21. Lewis E. Thayne, President, Lebanon Valley College
22. Jo Ann Rooney, President, Loyola University Chicago
23. Brian Rosenberg, President, Macalester College
24. Sonya Stephens, Acting President, Mount Holyoke College
25. John I. Williams, Jr., President, Muhlenberg College
26. David Oxtoby, President, Pomona College
27. Wim Wiewel, President, Portland State University
28. Thomas J. Schwarz, President, Purchase College, SUNY
29. Kathleen McCartney, President, Smith College
30. Melik Peter Khoury, President, Unity College
31. Nicholas B. Dirks, Chancellor, University of California Berkeley
32. Andrew J. Leavitt, President, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
33. Paula A. Johnson, President, Wellesley College

**Additional Signers:**

34. Michael S. Brophy, President, Benedictine University
35. Bernie L. Patterson, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
36. Bidy Martin, President, Amherst College
37. Jonathan D. Green, President, Susquehanna University
38. Sophia Howlett, President, School for International Training
39. Paul J. Fitzgerald, President, University of San Francisco
40. Michael B. Alexander, President, Lasell College
41. Donald J. Laackman, President, Champlain College
42. Jonathan Gibraltar, President, Wells College

43. Mary Hinton, President, College of St. Benedict
44. Barbara Andrews, Provost, Antioch University New England
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46. David P. Angel, President, Clark University
47. Clayton Rose, President, Bowdoin College
48. Stephen V. Sundborg, President, Seattle University
49. Ronald D. Liebowitz, President, Brandeis University
50. Linda Schott, President, Southern Oregon University
51. Carmen Twillie Ambar, President, Oberlin College
52. Lynn M. Morton, Warren Wilson College
53. Gerard J. Rooney, St. John Fisher College
54. Christopher F. Roellke, Stetson University