



**Date:** April 10th, 2017

**Resolution:** #17-05

**Sponsors:**

Andrew Capobianco, Heider College of Business

Natalie Halbur, College of Nursing

Madeline Patrick, College of Arts and Sciences

**Purpose:** To provide recycling uniformity throughout Creighton's campus. This includes distinguishable recycling bins in the Harper Center, additional bins in Kenefick Hall and Heider Hall, and additional clearly labeled bins in Skutt Student Center. Recycling bins should also be purchased to be placed outside popular walking areas including, but not limited to, the area between Harper and Davis Hall, outside of Skutt Student Center, and outside Hixson Lied.

**Whereas:** Currently, there is a lack of recycling bins at Creighton University. This causes Creighton to recycle far less than what could be recycled.

**Whereas:** The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 75% of waste can be recycled. In 2015, Creighton University recycled 151 pounds of waste, only 18.3% of total waste according to a presentation from the Creighton University Sustainability Council.

**Whereas:** One of the reasons Creighton's recycled waste is proportionately low is because there are not enough recycling bins compared to the number of trash bins. Skutt Student Center has twenty-three trash bins and only ten recycling bins. This ratio is consistent throughout campus.

**Whereas:** In the Harper Center, trash receptacles and recycling bins are often not located near one another. Due to the similar color of the recycling and trash bins, confusion and contamination occurs. The lack of readily distinguishable cans leads to students throwing trash in the recycling for the sake of convenience.

**Whereas:** Additional recycling bins should be purchased and placed in proximity to all trash bins so that the ratio of trash to recycling bins is 1:1. The specific type of recycling bins can be chosen by Michelle Ferestad, the Facilities Manager, and Scott Maas, the Director of Student Centers and Dining Services at Creighton.

**Whereas:** We suggest these recycling bins will be labeled "Recycling", have the recycling emblem, and be blue in color in accordance with the current recycling bins placed on campus.

**Whereas:** Additional signage encouraging recycling should be placed in high traffic locations to ensure proper recycling and avoid contamination.

**Whereas:** Single stream recycling is used by the city of Omaha, meaning that when the recyclables from Creighton arrive at the recycling plant they are sorted into recyclables and non-recyclables and not by specific materials, such as bottles and paper.

**Whereas:** Recycling lids that have holes only for bottles or the lids in the Skutt Student Center that have different designations for each type of recyclable material should be changed because these materials do not have to be sorted to be recycled.

**Whereas:** Creighton students and faculty including the Energy Technology Program, Green Jays, Environmental Science Club, Energy Club, and the Presidential Advisory Council on Sustainability have voiced that Creighton needs to improve their recycling program and utilization across campus.

**THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE CREIGHTON STUDENTS UNION  
THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED:**

The Creighton Students Union recommends implementing recycling uniformity throughout Creighton's campus. This includes distinguishable recycling bins in the Harper Center, additional bins in Kenefick Hall and Heider Hall, and additional clearly labeled bins in Skutt Student Center. Recycling bins should also be purchased to be placed outside popular walking areas including, but not limited to the area between Harper and Davis Hall, outside of Skutt Student Center, and outside Hixson Lied. These recycling bins will be labeled "Recycling", have the recycling emblem, and be blue in color in accordance with the current recycling bins placed on campus. Additional signage encouraging recycling will be placed in high traffic locations to ensure proper recycling and avoid contamination. All recycling bins should allow for all recyclable materials to be thrown away, and each recycling bin should be near a trash bin.

Respectively Submitted,

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