



**Date:** November 1, 2019

**Resolution:** #19-03 – Plastic Bag Phase-Out

**Sponsors:**

Donna Shahbazi, CSU President

Patrick Marta, School of Medicine, Class of 2023

Gabrielle Baker, CSU Board of Representatives Parliamentarian

**Purpose:** To phase out the distribution and use of nonessential single-use plastic bags at Creighton University campus bookstore by August 2020.

**Whereas:** As a Jesuit, Catholic institution, we understand the interconnectedness of our mission and the global impact of sustainability as an environmental, social, and economic issue.

**Whereas:** Creighton University has made “a renewed commitment to promoting ecological justice at Creighton and within society at large”. (Creighton University Strategic Plan, November 2017)

**Whereas:** Creighton Students Union “is dedicated to the enhancement of the educational, social, and cultural environment on campus” in part by “encourage[ing] members of the Creighton community to contribute positively to the university and greater communities.” (Creighton Students Union Constitution, 2017).

**Whereas:** Global environmental well-being has been recognized as an issue of social justice by the Catholic Church: “We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (Laudato Si, 2015)

**Whereas:** To fully live according to our CSU and university mission, it is crucial that we provide opportunities for Creighton to cultivate environmentally conscious individuals and to encourage broader involvement in campus sustainability efforts.

**Whereas:** The higher mission to eliminate single-use plastics has garnered broad support across campus, specifically leaders from the Office of Sustainability Programs, the Inter-Residence Hall Government, and hundreds of students concerned about environmental justice.

**Whereas:** Since the opening of the Creighton Bookstore under the management of Barnes and Noble College in July of 2019, \$324 worth of plastic bags were purchased and have been distributed.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Gunter, Barnes and Noble College Bookstore Manager (personal communication, October 28, 2019)



**Whereas:** Creighton Dining and facilities have already demonstrated a commitment to reduce food and plastic waste through food conservation efforts, installation of water bottle fillers, reusable containers at Grab N' Go, and providing reusable dining options.

**Whereas:** Creighton Dining successfully phased out the distribution and use of nonessential single-use plastic bags at Creighton dining and retail locations on campus by Fall 2019. Starbucks, a national chain, has also been a part of this phase out.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED THAT...**

The Creighton Students Union formally recommends the phase-out of use and distribution of non-essential single-use plastic bags at the Creighton University campus bookstore by August 2020. Furthermore, we recommend for Creighton branded reusable tote bags to be available for purchase at check-out. Additionally, we ask that the Creighton Bookstore explore alternative options to binding multiple-book purchases, rather than the wrapping of textbooks in plastic.

**Respectfully Signed,**

Donna Shahbazi, Creighton Students Union President  
Patrick Marta, School of Medicine, Class of 2023  
Gabrielle Baker, CSU Board of Representatives Parliamentarian