

## Student Assembly

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# 20SA20

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### Submetering Resolution

Sponsor: Sadie Cavazos, Student Sustainability Fund Delegate

#### Fully aware

Austin College Thinking Green hosts an annual competition during the month of October known as AC Unplugged. The competition encourages students to cut back on their energy usage by unplugging devices and turning off lights when they are not in use. Students are incentivized to participate by comparing their usage to the other residence halls during the month of competition. All four traditional residence halls donate money to charities of their choice at the end of the competition using funds from the Thinking Green Campus Awareness organization.

#### Having seen

AC Unplugged incentivizes students to reduce their energy consumption in the month of October. The average energy reduction observed during AC Unplugged is about 5% so expanding the competition to other residences on campus (i.e., Bryan Apartments and Jordan Family Language House) will further reduce energy consumption among students.

- The number of students that can live in the Bryan Apartments and Jordan Family Language House.
- Saving energy saves money and will aid future sustainability initiatives because it helps convince campus administrators and others on campus that greening efforts produce benefits beyond sustainability.

#### Informed

Electrical meters work to measure energy usage by sampling the electricity (measured in watts) over time (measured in hours). This results in an output measurement of kilowatt-hours. For example, using a 100-watt lightbulb for 10 hours would consume 1000 kilowatt hours. Digital meters like the two units that will be purchased measure by magnetically sensing the volts and amps across a circuit, which provides an accurate representation of energy use for a particular hall.

**Convinced**

Allowing more students to participate in AC Unplugged will aid them in developing stronger energy conservation habits, which will have environmental impacts beyond their time at AC. Additionally, this allows the Bryan Apartment and Jordan Family Language House residents to participate in AC Unplugged 2021 and gives the Physical Plant an avenue to observe monthly energy usage in these residences. Once Bryan Apartments and Jordan Family Language House have meters, AC Unplugged can be expanded to all students who live on campus.

**Be it resolved**

that the Student Assembly authorizes the purchase made by the Student Sustainability Fund for two energy monitoring systems to the Bryan Apartment complex and the Jordan Family Language House.

- **Total estimate of \$3,500 for the meters, installation, and recognition.** The Student Sustainability Fund will provide Physical Plant with the needed funds.
- An estimated quote from Dealers Electrical Supply states the cost for the electric meters would be \$1,926.54.
  - Opting for the desired “smart” meter allows Physical Plant to check the energy usage easily and quickly for both buildings on their computer at any time.
- The breaker boxes that the electrical meters plug into cost \$253.97 based on a quote from Dealers Electrical Supply.
- Estimated cost of \$1,000 for PVC and cabling to hook the meters into the carrier system, which is what allows the smart meters to be read from a computer.
- The purchase of 2 new plaques will cost \$40 each to total \$80.

**Noting**

The Physical Plant will complete installation of both the meters and the recognition plaques prior to Fall 2021.

**Further Noting**

A 6 x 4 inch brass plaque will be placed in the lobby/common room of Bryan Apartments and Jordan Family Language House. The Bryan Apartments and Roo Suites share a common area. The plaques will read “The Roo Suites and Bryan Apartments/Jordan Family Language House are/is able to participate in an energy conservation competition thanks to the metering systems provided by Student Sustainability Fund through Student Assembly.”