

Student Assembly

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20SA23

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Campus Greenhouse Action Resolution

Sponsor: Kate Howard, Student Sustainability Fund Delegate

Fully aware

The Center for Environmental Studies would like to manage planting of native perennials on campus in order to incorporate them into campus landscaping. This would provide educational value to students interested in gardening and would create habitats for charismatic fauna such as Monarch butterflies, bees, and birds. Perennial plantings also are likely to reduce costs in labor and maintenance compared to annual plants,

Having seen

Native plants are adapted to the arid summers of North Central Texas as well as stress from local pests, which is what characterizes native perennials as hardy and low-maintenance. A campus greenhouse could allow ENVIS workers to raise perennial plants from seeds, which would result in even greater cost-savings in landscaping,

Informed

Greenhouses can trap heat in cool weather allowing for seeds to germinate throughout a greater portion of the year than in the open. The effect is a longer growing season,

Convinced

ENVIS workers could build and maintain a greenhouse on the west side of the IDEA Center, where varieties of Texas native plants could be stored, cared for and grown for landscaping across campus. Additionally, these plants could be transplanted into perennial gardens throughout campus to be cared for by various student organizations, such as Greek societies and student interest groups. Several plots of garden beds remain empty, which could be adopted by student organizations,

Be it resolved

That the Student Assembly authorizes the purchase of a 6'x6'x7', aluminum-framed greenhouse with shatter-resistant polycarbonate siding. The ENVIS coordinator would handle purchasing, while ENVIS work study students would be responsible for construction,

- > **The proposed structure can be purchased and assembled for a total cost of \$1,425.**
 - > The greenhouse itself can be purchased at Home Depot or on Amazon for \$755
 - > An anchor system that would prevent wind disturbance would be an additional \$95
 - > Flooring for the greenhouse will be made up of a weed barrier and small gravel, costing about \$200
 - > ENVS would also purchase shelving, pots, and potting soil to get started - \$370
- ENVS student workers will begin construction immediately with SA approval.

Other Notes:

Costs broken down:

Item	Cost
Greenhouse	\$755
Anchor System	\$100
Shelves	\$240
Gravel Bags	\$180
Landscape Fabric	\$20
Plastic Pots	\$30
Potting Mix	\$100
Total	\$1425



Implementation of Proposal:

The greenhouse would be placed on the west side of the Idea center in a grass plot that will get cleared out (see yellow dot on photo below). This area is optimal because there is opportunity for the greenhouse to catch the early sun in late winter when many seeds should be planted. The work study students of the ENVS Program could not only clear out the grass plot and level the ground but assemble the greenhouse as well. The greenhouse would be built in one weekend in the spring of 2023 and should only take a 2-4 hours at most to set up according to customer reviews. The greenhouse that is mentioned below is very easy to assemble, so bringing in the Physical Plant workers to help construct it would not be necessary.

An anchor system will also be installed in order to provide the greenhouse with extra stability.

The two adjacent walls of the greenhouse will each have two shelves placed side by side, allowing a walking path in between them. These shelves will be placed directly on the dirt, as they will be stabilized with the gravel that will be placed around it.

The proposed location of the greenhouse is depicted below in the picture as a yellow dot (left side of picture):

