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August 22, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Campus Community

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alexander Gonzalez'.

FROM: Alexander Gonzalez
President

SUBJECT: Sustainability at Sac State

The State of California, long considered a world leader on the environmental front, enacted Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2006, which sets ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to issuance of AB 32, the CSU Board of Trustees set specific goals for CSU campuses to reduce their energy consumption. Recently the Board issued Executive Order 987, which elaborates on the need for campuses to maximize energy efficiencies, seek and use renewable resources, and build sustainability into new building projects across the CSU.

Sustainability is not a new term, but is one that has gained momentum in recent years as world leaders begin to address the current and future environmental issues caused by global warming. It encompasses the conservation of resources; new construction design that maximizes energy efficiency and uses recycled and durable building materials; and the use of existing resources to effectively reduce energy consumption and have minimal negative impact on the environment.

I am pleased to say that Sacramento State has many long-standing sustainability practices already in place. Facilities Services has ensured that we are meeting the goals for reduction of energy usage set forth in E.O. 987, and has put a recycling program in place that diverted over 3,700 tons of material from the landfill in 2006/07. Facilities planners are using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidelines to construct new buildings and remodel existing facilities. The campus has also hired a consulting firm with expertise in the area of sustainability to assist us in identifying additional sustainability measures that can be implemented in our new and existing facilities. To learn more about the campus commitment to sustainability, please visit the new sustainability website at <http://www.fm.csus.edu/Sustainability.htm>.

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To further the sustainability efforts on campus, last year I asked for the formation of the University Sustainability Committee whose charge will include recommending viable and cost-effective sustainability measures for implementation at Sacramento State. Committee membership will include campus and community representation. With the new semester, I will be contacting the Faculty Senate, Associated Students, Incorporated and University Staff Assembly for nominations to the committee. The committee will start its work early this fall.

The greatest challenge, for Sacramento State, is assuring the stability of the institution now and for the future, while minimizing our impact on the environment. I hope you will join me in supporting our current and future sustainability efforts as we work towards building a sustainable campus environment for future generations of Sacramento State students, faculty and staff.