ESAC responses to staff feedback regarding the proposed Climate Resolution

1. **Comment (paraphrased)**: This is wonderful, and I do not have anything to add. I am very happy and excited that ESAC is taking this action!

**Response**: Thank you for your feedback in support.

1. **Comment (paraphrased):** I support this resolution, yet I’m concerned it will be meaningless without specific actions. It would be ideal to add action(s) to each item, but at minimum include who will be responsible for determining what actions will be taken and by whom following approval of resolution.

**Response:** The university has been lacking administrative leadership in sustainability, and the point of this resolution is to encourage the administration to bump up the priority of this issue far enough to get them to act. Yes, it is this basic, and the other resolutions by faculty and staff shared governance groups are also generalized like ours. It is not our job to identify the many specific actions that can be undertaken at the university to address climate change, although already the pressure from the student resolution alone led to the central administration creating task forces to address many specific areas of their resolution.

1. **Comment (paraphrased):** The second “whereas” statement should be edited to include Iowa City or second bullet mentioning Iowa City’s resolution should be removed

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. The item has been revised to explicitly note the community in which the University of Iowa and the College of Engineering reside as relevant body.

1. **Comment (paraphrased):** The document should start with statement tying it to ESAC, why ESAC is taking it up, how it fits within our bylaws, and how ESAC’s participation is linked to other bodies also working on resolution. Is this outside the purview of ESAC representing staff to college administration? Will this lead to ESAC taking up other campus-wide issues beyond College of Engineering?

**Response:** Thank you for the opportunity to clarify our process and improve transparency. The following introductory page will be added as a cover sheet to staff:

This resolution is in response to the joint resolution passed by the students of the university, including College of Engineering students who we would like to support. The resolution is directly relevant to the higher education expertise and interests of the College of Engineering, including staff. Following passage of the students’ joint resolution, ESAC was asked by Engineering Faculty Council (EFC) to participate in a joint resolution similar to the joint resolution being taken up at the time by UI Faculty Senate (UIFS) and UI Staff Council (UISC) and which have both since passed unanimously. ESAC agreed to participate because our purpose, in part as stated in the bylaws is to “…ensure staff involvement in committees and discussions that affect College of Engineering staff” (Article II), and goal #4 as stated in the bylaws is to “Interact and coordinate with…Engineering Faculty Council…” (Article II). At times this involves targeting administration above the College of Engineering, such as when we were in contact with the Provost’s Office to ensure staff presence on the Dean search committee, in order to represent staff interests most effectively. Other issues that may rise to the level of a resolution should be considered on a case by case basis.

**Document history:**

* Nov. 2019 – Drafted by Charlie Stanier by adapting and shortening UISG and GPSG resolutions
* Nov. 2019 – Early drafts reviewed by Jerry Schnoor, David Cwiertny, Michelle Scherer, David Wilder (EFC), Christian Bako (GPSG), Rachel Marek (ESAC)
* Nov. 19, 2019 -- Discussed at EFC meeting; some changes are needed.
* Nov. 25, 2019 -- Changes in response to Nov 19 discussion at EFC, and Nov 20 discussion of CLAS and Engineering faculty (Title, reorder whereas science, then students, then other resolutions, then Paris agreement, adding new faculty council approval, streamlining whereas statements, copying some language from the faculty council resolution)
* Nov. 26, 2019
  + Fixed typos
  + Added citation to 2019 UN Emissions gap report, released Nov 26, 2019
  + Informally shared with David Cwiertny, Michelle Scherer, David Wilder (EFC), Christian Bako (GPSG), Rachel Marek (ESAC), and Gabrielle Villarini (Director of IIHR)
* Dec. 3, 2019 – The Nov 26, 2019 version approved at EFC meeting. Stanier accepted all tracked changes and distributed to EFC chair Wilder. On the agenda for Dec 16 engineering college-wide faculty meeting as an EFC approved motion.
* Dec. 6, 2019 – ESAC voted at our December council meeting to consider the Engineering Climate Resolution forwarded to us by EFC
* Dec. 16, 2019 -- Passed unanimously by the college faculty in the college-wide faculty meeting.
* Dec. 18 and 19, 2019 – ESAC staff listening posts on the resolution
* Jan. 6, 2020 – ESAC discussion on revisions and response to staff feedback
* Jan. 10, 2020 – Revisions by Dawn Marshall (ESAC) and Rachel Marek (ESAC) to incorporate staff feedback
* Jan. 27-31, 2020 – Planned college-wide staff vote via Qualtrics on the resolution