A bill to grant Green Store status as a Joint Service Project under the ASSU Bylaws
ASSU-W2014-2

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Submitted for consideration:
January 21, 2014, to the Undergraduate Senate
January 22, 2014, to the Graduate Student Council

Action Requested: 2/3 joint approval by the joint legislative bodies of the Association

WHEREAS the Joint Bylaws Article IX, § 1.A specifies that "[t]he ASSU has a commitment to improving the quality of student life by supporting both the academic and non-academic endeavors of its members," and that, "[t]o better fulfill this commitment, the ASSU shall charter semi-autonomous organizations, hereafter referred to as Service Organizations,"

WHEREAS the Joint Bylaws Article IX, § 1.D.1 specifies that one type of "Service Organization" as mentioned in Article IX, § 1.A is a "Service Project," which is "intended to be [a] semi-autonomous student-run [agency], subject to the oversight of the President of the Association and the relevant Association legislative bodies. The primary function of each [service project] shall be to support the student organizations, activities, and/or services specified in its charge,"

WHEREAS the Joint Bylaws Article IX, § 3.A specifies that "Joint Service Projects shall be created jointly by the Association legislative bodies to serve some need to the Association population," both graduate and undergraduate,

WHEREAS Green Store (greenstore.stanford.edu) is a student service that was founded by the ASSU Executive in the academic year 2008-09 and was in operation through the 2012-13 academic school year as an ASSU service and part of the ASSU’s Student Service Division (SSD), during which Green Store provided eco-friendly products (including recyclable cups, eco-friendly laundry detergent, Smart Strips, and related products) to the campus community at breakeven cost,

WHEREAS Green Store received funding from the ASSU in the years past so that it could operate on a not-for-profit model (and thus benefit students by making available low-cost eco-friendly products) and stock up in inventory to operate efficiently, and whereas Green Store has maintained $8,349.42 over the years in its ASSU account number 5262 and is not currently requesting additional funding from the legislative bodies,

WHEREAS the Joint Bylaws Article IX, § B says that “[a] Service Organization must make its services available to all members of the population of the Association it serves, except as noted elsewhere [emphasis added]”; whereas the ASSU Operations leadership team (the Financial Manager, Assistant Financial Manager, and Accounting Manager) and Nanci Howe (Director of Student Activities Leadership) have stated that an option for Green Store’s continued operation is to “market and sell its goods to student groups only” to ensure that “all the money stays inside the ASSU”; and whereas this bill would have Green Store operate as a service available to those members of the Association involved in registered student groups (both graduate and undergraduate),
WHEREAS Green Store would enable student groups to easily and cheaply purchase environmentally friendly materials for their events and would promote a culture of sustainability on campus, aligning with recent campus efforts and projects such as the recent provision of compost bins for graduate residences, and whereas Green Store would have potential to act as an effective resource since student groups host a great number of events throughout the academic school year and often need items such as cups and other food serviceware,

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THIS ASSOCIATION:

THAT Green Store be granted status as a Joint Service Project of the Association,

THAT a Joint Service Project Officers’ Selection Committee (“JSPOSC”), as specified in Joint Bylaws, Article IX, § 3.E.5, be created to nominate a Project Director for Green Store, to be approved by the joint legislative bodies, and that the JSPOSC consist of the President or Vice-President of the Association (who shall chair the committee), the US Liaison to the Project, a GSC designee, the Financial Manager or his/her designee, and the current Director of the Project or the President/Vice-President of the Association if the current Director seeks reappointment (Joint Bylaws, Article IX, § 3.E.5.C),

THAT since Joint Bylaws Article IX, § 3.E.5.f states that the JSPOSC “shall convene at least once before the end of Winter Quarter, or before the end of the quarter in which a vacancy on a Project occurs [emphasis added],” and given that Green Store currently lacks a “Director” and would find itself in its first year as a Joint Service Project of the Association if this bill is approved, the JSPOSC shall convene as soon as possible to nominate and have the joint legislative bodies approve a Director for Green Store (and this appointment shall remain in place until spring of the 2014-15 academic year),

THAT the approved Director of Green Store will then nominate and approve Junior Officers under Joint Bylaws, Article IX, § 3.E.7.A, and that the structure of the Green Store team and the different Junior Officer positions will be determined by each Director of the Joint Service Project moving forward given that leadership styles differ by person,

THAT the following be inserted into the Joint Bylaws of the Association as Section 9.

Section 9: ASSU Green Store

A. Definitions

For the remainder of this Section, the ASSU Green Store shall be referred to as the Store.

B. Charge

The Store shall be a Joint Service Project of the Association, as defined in section IX.3 of these Bylaws, that serves students by improving access to eco-friendly products for purchase. The scope of the Store’s operations may be expanded by the Association.

C. Officers and Governance
1. The Senior Officer of the Division shall be the Director, who shall be chosen in accordance with section IX.3.E.6 of these Bylaws. Until the first Director of the Store is approved, the GSC designee will act as interim Director of the Store. The Director shall:
   a. Set and hone the strategic vision for the Store;
   b. Work with the Executive and the legislative bodies to ensure that the Store fills the needs of the Stanford community;
   c. Implement action items and take on duties approved by the legislative bodies;
   d. Appoint and prescribe the duties, after consultation with and subject to the approval of the legislative bodies, of other officers of the Store, as the Director shall deem appropriate;
   e. Act as the primary spokesperson for the Store; and
   f. Exercise any authority granted to the Director under this Charter or otherwise delegated to the Director by the legislative bodies.

2. There shall be Junior Officers of the Store, and their exact positions and responsibilities shall be specified in the Policies of the Store, subject to change by the Director.

D. Budget

1. The Association legislative bodies shall modify the budget of the Store. The requirements for modification shall be specified in the respective Bylaws of the Association legislative bodies.

2. The Store budget shall be used for the Store’s operating expenses, including but not limited to inventory and marketing costs.

3. The Store may solicit funds from any source except from unrestricted funds of the Association (endowment, interest income, Business Project profit, indirect cost recovery charges), subject to the guidelines of the Association and the University. However, no funds may be accepted from non-VSO or non-Association entities and used by the Store unless mention of such funds is made in the budget. For other sources of funds, the Store shall be required to submit quarterly reports listing the funds received and used.

E. The Store policies must contain at least the following:

1. A description of the responsibilities of the Junior Officers of the Store.
2. Basic guidelines for the Store’s means of operation.