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A Bill
Presented by Senator Jean Congreve
of the
University of South Carolina – Aiken
Student Government Association
On this Sixteenth Day of February, 2009

Purpose: To urge State Legislators to restore PASCAL's funding back to appropriate levels of operation.

Whereas: PASCAL is a consortium of 60 academic libraries in the state where funding comes from both membership dues and state appropriation via the Commission on Higher Education, and

Whereas: PASCAL previously had an appropriation of nearly 2 million dollars annually, but the commission has reduced that by 90% to \$200,000 compared to the average budget cut of 3% to all state budgets, and

Whereas: This decrease in funding has caused PASCAL to cut a number of its databases, decrease the frequency of its deliveries, and assess a large increase in dues and fees to maintain its core programs, and

Whereas: If funding is not restored, major cuts will be seen in the program in 2008-2009, and PASCAL will cease to exist in 2009-2010, and

Whereas: The University of South Carolina - Aiken uses vital information and resources passed through PASCAL, receiving an estimated \$189,000 in PASCAL resources for only \$3,000 in membership dues, translating to a situation where the University of South Carolina - Aiken received \$63.00 in resource value for every dollar spent, and

Whereas: The cost of maintaining licenses for the content that PASCAL currently provides to each institution would be prohibitive in nature, and

Whereas: The General Assembly of South Carolina has the ability to act on a request to restore 2.3 million dollars in funding, and

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Whereas: The University of South Carolina - Aiken has a significant interest in making sure that the PASCAL system is restored to full operating capacity in order to maintain the vital resources for its students.

Therefore: BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION I: Let it be known that the Student Senate of the University of South Carolina - Aiken on behalf of the students and faculty of the University of South Carolina - Aiken, do strongly encourage the General Assembly of South Carolina, to put education at the forefront of their initiatives.

SECTION II: The Student Senate of the University of South Carolina - Aiken requests that the General Assembly pass legislation to restore appropriate funding for PASCAL.

SECTION III: The Student Body President of the University of South Carolina - Aiken shall disseminate this Resolution to the President of the University of South Carolina - Aiken, the Governor of South Carolina, and each member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, and Senate respectively.

SECTION IV: THIS BILL SHALL TAKE EFFECT (UPON PASSAGE) BY THE STUDENT SENATE SITTING IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT.

For SGA Office Use Only:

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|--|---|
| Bill Number: <u>001</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED |
| Senator Sponsor: <u>Jean Congreve</u> | |
| Vice President Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED |
| President Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> | |