A RESOLUTION ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SCIENCE FACILITIES AS THE TOP PRIORITY AMONG NEW ACADEMIC STRUCTURES (04/1)

WHEREAS, science and technology have a critical impact on all life, and;

WHEREAS, investment in science facilities and science programming is an investment in the future of students, of the Institution, and of society, because it creates the opportunity for:

- strengthening teaching and learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- increasing the enrollment and retention of talented science majors, in general, and diversity among science majors, in particular;
- attracting and retaining accomplished undergraduate students, whatever their major;
- increasing the number of non-science majors who enroll in science courses;
- bringing to students a command of the tools of focused inquiry, mentored discovery-based learning, collaborative problem-solving, writing, quantitative and informational literacy**,** and information exchange essential for work and lifelong learning;
- improving post-graduate outcomes in graduate/professional school acceptances and job placements;
- recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty;
- attracting exceptional graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the sciences;
- improving professional placement of doctoral graduates;
- enabling collaborations and emerging interdisciplinary interactions in teaching and research;
- increasing research involvement and productivity for students and faculty;
- increasing competitiveness for external grants for such purposes as research, curriculum and faculty development, and instrumentation;
- enhancing connections to area external partners, e.g., the NIH, the Smithsonian; The Institute for Genome Research, the Goddard Space Flight Center, the Children's National Medical Center, the Naval Research Lab, and National Institute for Standards and Technology;
- expanding technology infrastructure through state-of-the-art laboratories and general purpose classrooms;
- affecting the University community in a positive manner with respect to morale, inspiration, involvement, collegiality, cooperation, and social interaction;
- attracting benefactors, engaging alumni, and expanding the endowment; and;

WHEREAS, an investment in science facilities and science programming advances the Institution's Strategic Plan for Academic Excellence by creating the opportunity for:

- delivering engaged and consequential undergraduate education;
- becoming a tier-one research institution;
- promoting quality, highly visible, revenue-generating graduate education;
- recruiting and retaining a diverse, nationally and internationally known, faculty producing increased research;
- leveraging the D.C. environment to deliver a world-class education;
- integrating research and teaching to solve problems in the urban environment;
- fostering a sense of community through a unified approach to science, and;

WHEREAS, understanding the draw of science and the revolution that is occurring within it, local universities, competing universities, aspirant universities, and schools of lesser status have constructed or committed to construct new science facilities, and;

WHEREAS, new science facilities will benefit other Schools, other CCAS disciplines and disciplines within the Schools that depend on excellence in the basic sciences both in academics and research, by providing the opportunity for:

- access to additional technology-enabled general use classrooms;
- flexible arrangements to accommodate the changing landscape of science;
- greater integration of mathematics, statistics, and computational sciences with other disciplines across the University, and;
- enhanced opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaborations, and;

WHEREAS, the construction of new science facilities and the accompanying benefits would have such a major immediate and future impact on the Institution, that funding by revenues generated by individual gifts, capital campaigns, indirect cost recovery, reallocation of funds, and new revenues (e.g., financial value derived from the old hospital site, tuition-generating programs and certificates) is justified, and;

WHEREAS, the quality and quantity of existing science facilities and science programming deprive the students, the Institution, and society of the full-benefits cited above and thus, undermine the effort of the Institution to achieve the goals stated in the Strategic Plan for Academic Excellence, **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:

(1) That the Faculty Senate endorses the investment in new science facilities that accommodate the physical, life, and mathematical sciences, ~~and~~ science programming, and science–related engineering programs ~~ming~~ as the **top** priority among future academic projects; and

(2) That the new science facilities will be defined with respect to size, site, use (school-wide, university-wide) and program goals through a careful collaborative planning process that includes science and non-science faculty, academic deans, campus planners and architects, advancement staff, and budget officers.

Adopted, as amended, May 7, 2004