

Office of the Student Body President

Presidential Veto 2223-001

Veto of Senate Resolution 2223-035

By the authority vested in me as President of the Butler University Student Government Association, and in order to ensure the fiscal responsibility and proper scope of the Student Government Association, Senate Resolution 2223-035: Resolution to Approve Funds for Additional Trash Cans is hereby vetoed.

Section 1: Rationale. The decision of vetoing this resolution was not an easy one for me to make. In order to reach an appropriate conclusion, I personally spoke with the pertinent university personnel and Student Senators. I even went to the locations designated in the resolution to investigate the situation. It quickly became apparent that the resolution does address a campus need. In fact, it should be noted that I could only find one outdoor public trash receptacle in all of Apartment Village.

However, I do not believe a resolution in this form is the correct way to address this pressing issue. Trash receptacles are critical campus infrastructure. Often, the Student Government Association will step in to provide funding for additional amenities on campus that better the student experience. I personally believe that trash cans are necessities, rather than additional amenities, and that they are crucial to the proper functioning of Butler University. Funds are allocated by the university to appropriate departments each year in order to update the infrastructure on campus. Spending student activity fee dollars to fix this issue would create a poor precedent, and will only encourage the university to use the Student Government Association's funding to supply such basic items in the future.

Furthermore, this resolution has missed highlighting some key points that any resolution of this nature should include. There is no mention of:

- Who will be responsible, physically and financially, for maintaining these trash cans
- Who will be responsible, physically and financially, for emptying these trash cans
- Who will be responsible for the installation of these trash cans
- Where specifically, beyond general locations, will these trash cans be placed
- Where will the trash cans themselves be ordered from
- What will the style of the trash cans be

Through the assistance of pertinent Senators, I have been able to review the discussions between them and relevant university officials on this issue. While some of the points above were hinted at in these private conversations, very little was actually addressed in the public resolution. Furthermore, in the material shared with me, there was never an attempt to have the university live up to its responsibility and provide these vital items for our campus. Instead, there was only an offer from our organization to cover the full cost of these trash cans. Some may see these points as minor details, but, whenever we commit our finances to an issue, we should be as clear as possible in our official documentation about where that money is going and how it will be used.

I would, however, like to thank Senators Durst and Walls. They have pointed out an area of improvement for this campus, and have represented members of the student body in doing so. While I disagree with their method, I cannot fault their intentions, nor their commitment to searching for solutions to a campus need.

Section 2: Supported Resolution. As stated above, there is a need for trash cans in these locations on campus. While the Student Government Association should be advocating for action on this issue, we must ensure we are not blindly throwing money at campus projects. However, should a resolution meeting the following parameters reach my desk, I will sign it promptly:

- The resolution should encourage relevant university personnel/departments to look into this lack of critical campus infrastructure
- The resolution should encourage opening a dialogue between the Student Government Association and relevant university personnel/departments
- The resolution should, if possible, be specific concerning the trash cans and their locations
- The resolution should encourage the university to entirely fund this initiative
- The resolution should not include a financial commitment by the Student Government Association toward this initiative, as this is vital infrastructure that should be provided by the university for the students, staff, and faculty.

This would be a proper use of our scope and influence as an organization, and it would ensure that the university is held accountable for providing basic campus necessities.

Section 3: Authority. The Student Government Association Constitution Article IV §9 states that “The Legislative Branch will transmit legislation adopted by the Student Senate to the Executive Branch within five school days of the legislation’s adoption. Within five school days of the President’s receipt of the legislation, the President may enact the legislation by signing it or veto the legislation by informing the Speaker in writing. If the President vetoes the legislation, then the Student Senate may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of present members.” The Student Government Association General Bylaws, Article V §6 states that “the President retains the ability to veto appropriate legislation within five school days of receipt of the legislation. If the President vetoes the legislation, they are to notify the branch leaders in writing.”



Cade Chezem, Student Body President
Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 11:00 am



cc:

Ryan Crnarich, Chief Justice
Reagan Markland, Speaker of the Senate
Alex Stencel, University Life Committee Chair, Class of 2023 Senator
Nick Durst, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Senator
Gracie Walls, Class of 2026 Senator
Alessa Rodriguez, Senate Secretary
Meet Patel, Vice President
Katie Stanley, Chief of Staff
Rossell Brewer, Director of Policy and Procedure
Lucy Olmstead, Director of Public Relations