First Reading: February 12, 2013

Second Reading: February 19, 2013

Pass: Yes

Other:

Resolution 4-11-F Resolution to Support an Independent Investigation into Practices at the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology (ICSET)

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the independent investigation of practices at the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology (ISCET).

WHEREAS: Depositions given during the recent *Zhang v. Western Kentucky University* case contain serious allegations about irregular and potentially illegal labor practices concerning visiting scholars at ICSET, and

WHEREAS: Former History Department chair and Professor Emeritus Dr. Richard Troutman revealed in a deposition allegations by Chinese visiting scholars at ICSET that, for example, “one time we worked over 16 hours every day for one week” (see attached article from Bowling Green *Daily News*), and

WHEREAS: Former immigration specialist in the Office of International Programs, Carol Porter, revealed in a deposition that Chinese scholars notified her of similar allegations (see attached article), and

WHEREAS: The rulings on the *Zhang* case did not address the allegations of labor violations at ICSET, including but not limited to those made by Dr. Troutman and Carol Porter as reported in the Bowling Green *Daily News*, and

WHEREAS: Recent scandals at Pennsylvania State University have underlined the need for university administrations to take allegations of wrongdoing seriously, even to the extent of involving law enforcement, and

WHEREAS: As a leading American university, Western Kentucky University should make every effort to ensure its compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, so as to be above suspicion or reproach, and

WHEREAS: As a leading American university with international reach, Western Kentucky University should make every effort to ensure that it treats visiting scholars with respect, dignity, and in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws, so as to be above suspicion or reproach, and

WHEREAS: ICSET brings in large amounts of state and federal government grants, benefitting Western Kentucky University, an internal investigation might be marred by conflict of interest, and

THEREFORE:Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University supports a thorough, independent investigation of practices at the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology (ICSET).

AUTHOR: Mark Reeves

SPONSOR: Student Affairs

CONTACTS: Gary Ransdell

 Deborah Wilkins

 Tony Glisson

 Wei-Ping Pan

 Tarek Elshayeb

ATTACHED: Justin Story, "ICSET director accused of exploitation - Wrongful termination lawsuit reveals allegations that students were overworked and intimidated," *Daily News* (April 18, 2010)