

**2005-2006
ASUCSD Resolution # 14
November 16, 2005**

Submitted By: Dana Dahlstrom, Graduate Student Association Representative

Subject: Resolution Encouraging the Purchase of Fair Trade Products

The A.S. Council approved the Resolution Encouraging the Purchase of Fair Trade Products. Document Attached.

Approved:	<u>14</u>
Against:	<u>0</u>
Abstain:	<u>6</u>

Council Approval;
Certified by:

Chair of the Council

Date for Chair of the Council

Presidential Approval

Date for the President

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE PURCHASE OF FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

WHEREAS in the global economy our choices regarding consumption affect communities and the environment in all corners of the earth; and

WHEREAS many students prefer socially conscious and environmentally responsible options and attempt to avoid degradation of people, animals, and the environment; and

WHEREAS most small coffee farmers receive market payments for their harvest that range as low as 50¢ per pound, less than the costs of production, perpetuating a vicious cycle of poverty and debt; and

WHEREAS exploitation of coffee producers is accomplished by a system of “coyotes” and transporters who prey upon the growers’ isolation from direct contact with coffee roasters; and

WHEREAS the Associated Students of the University of California, San Diego is aware of the dire situation of poverty in coffee-producing areas of the world; and

WHEREAS Fair Trade Certified™ coffee works to correct these imbalances by guaranteeing stringent international criteria ensuring a minimum price of \$1.26 per pound to the grower, providing much-needed credit at fair terms to farmers and providing technical assistance such as help transitioning to organic farming; and

WHEREAS Fair Trade Certified™ coffee encourages cultivation under a shade canopy that preserves trees and birds, and also encourages sustainable and responsible organic farming practices; and,

WHEREAS industrial coffee farming contaminates air and water, contributes to pesticide poisoning, and involves deforestation and the extinction of bird species through habitat destruction; and,

WHEREAS Fair Trade Certified™ coffee encourages cultivation under a shade canopy that preserves trees and birds, and also encourages sustainable and responsible organic farming practices; and,

WHEREAS by receiving a fair wage, farmers can invest in community development, health care, education, and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS the University of California, San Diego Principles of Community state that “We are committed to the highest standards of civility and decency toward all”; and

WHEREAS exploitation of coffee producers is inconsistent with these Principles;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of California, San Diego opposes the systematic exploitation of coffee growers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of California, San Diego encourages students and campus facilities to purchase only fair-trade products, which preserve the basic quality of life of coffee farmers and the sustainability of their environment.