

Resolution in support of the Fairy Shrimp as the official mascot of the University of California, Merced

- Whereas:** The University of California, Merced is adjacent to the Vernal Pool & Grassland Reserve; and
- Whereas:** The Vernal Pool & Grassland reserve is home to four species of fairy shrimp, two of which are protected by the US Endangered Species Act and in danger of extinction¹; and
- Whereas:** The University of California, Merced is consistently ranked high in sustainability by the Princeton Review and the Sierra Club and prides itself on these accolades²; and
- Whereas:** Goal #15 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is “Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss”³; and
- Whereas:** At least 10 other colleges and universities in the US use Bobcat as their official mascot⁴, while none use the Fairy Shrimp; and
- Whereas:** The bobcat has a “stable or increasing population” throughout much of North America⁵.
- Resolved:** The Graduate Student Association of the University of California, Merced officially recognizes the Fairy Shrimp as the sole mascot for all graduate student clubs and organizations and the Fairy Shrimp as official co-mascot for all other university activities; and
- Resolved:** The Graduate Student Association of the University of California, Merced will hold a name and logo design contest, the winner of which will be decided by the popular vote of the graduate student body; and
- Resolved:** The official nickname for graduate students at the University of California, Merced will be the “Fairy Shrimp” or “Graduate Fairy Shrimp; and
- Resolved:** The Graduate Student Association of the University of California, Merced urges entire University of California, Merced campus adopt the Fairy Shrimp as its official mascot and nickname to highlight the plight of these endangered fauna, the destruction of the Vernal Pools Ecosystem (which the University of California, Merced sits firmly within), and biodiversity loss worldwide.

¹<http://vernalpools.ucmerced.edu/node/162>

²<https://www.ucmerced.edu/news-tag/sustainability>

³<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>

⁴Bates College, Frostburg State University, Montana State University, Ohio University, College of the Ozarks, Pittsburgh-Greensburg, Quinnipiac University, St. Thomas University, Texas State University, West Virginia Wesleyan College

⁵<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/6/Bobcat>