June 3, 2011

The Student Senate
64th Session
Texas A&M University

RE: Tuition Set-Aside Opposition Bill, Special Designation: Renewal

Student Senators,

After thorough examination into S.B. 63-19-R64, my belief is that tuition set asides affect every Aggie that I have been charged with representing, especially in regards to financial aid throughout these difficult times for funding at our university. My signature on this bill signifies my support to end the state requirement of tuition set asides because I believe that Texas A&M should have the liberty to decide how to best serve our students with our tuition. Meeting the financial needs of students through a program that sets aside a percentage of other students’ tuition is something that would best be discussed at the university level, not something to be mandated by the state legislature.

My Vice President for Legislative Relations, Bryce Bender, has contacted Senator Wentworth’s office and confirmed that the language contained in SB 298 would not be placed on the agenda for the 82nd Legislature’s Special Session.

It is unfortunate that a policy such as this could not be acted upon in a way that could potentially lower the cost of attendance for students statewide. The Student Government Association will continue to advocate on this topic for the upcoming 83rd Session of the Texas Legislature to convene in the spring of 2013.

For the students we serve,

Jeff Pickering ’12
Student Body President
Texas A&M University