The Student Senate
Texas A&M University

S.B. 65-05

The Student Senate
65th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Finance Chair Fernando J. Sosa, Southside

Certified By: Scott A. Bowen
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved: John L. Claybrook
Student Body President

Student Opinion on Fees Act
Special Designation: Act of the Senate

"A bill amending the SGA Code to include the Student Opinion on Fees Act (SOFA) and reorganizing sections of the SGA Code"

Whereas(1): The Student Government Association was deadlocked in Fall 2012 on the subject of fee increases due to an executive veto; and,

Whereas(2): Since inaction on the part of students can lead to permanent fee increases bring passed by the University with no opposition, a failsafe is needed to prevent any future disagreements from allowing fees to be raised inadvertently; and,

Whereas(3): The students of Texas A&M have the ability to enact statutes setting permanent SGA policies by passing bills in the Student Senate; and,

Whereas(4): Chapter 907 of the SGA Code contains long-term policies relating to tuition; and,

Whereas(5): Most SGA policies applying to fees will also apply to tuition, and vice versa; and,

Whereas(6): The already-passed opposition to off-semester student fee increases is superfluous if this new Act is added to the Code, but it should remain in order to continually discourage the Administration from proposing fees during the summer.
Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(1): That Title V, Chapter 907 shall be removed from the SGA Code; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted(2): That Chapter 905, Article I of the SGA Code shall be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 905 – STUDENT FEES AND TUITION POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

ARTICLE I. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

SECTION I. The Student Senate intends this Chapter to codify all policies and proposals concerning student fees and tuition, both academic and non-academic in nature at Texas A&M University, including both rates and allocations, and any other statutes it may enact reasonably relating to student fees and tuition.

Let it be
Further
Enacted(3): That the following shall be immediately added to Chapter 905 of the Student Government Association Code:

ARTICLE III. STUDENT OPINION ON FEES ACT

SECTION I. Legislative Intent and Purpose

(a) The student body of Texas A&M University intends this act to set forward a default policy of opposition to any increase in fees or tuition, unless that increase is expressly approved by a bill of the Student Senate or by a referendum of the student body. Since fee increases are historically permanent, this policy will endeavor to prevent fees and tuition from being raised without definite student approval.
SECTION II. Student Opinion on Fees Policy and Proposal

(a) It shall be the official permanent policy of the SGA, on behalf of the student body of Texas A&M University, to oppose by default any increase to fees (academic or non-academic) or tuition. In order for the SGA to support or maintain neutrality on any particular increase to fees or tuition, a statute reflecting that position must be passed by the Student Senate and signed by the Student Body President, or a referendum must be passed by the student body in a school-wide election in accordance with Article X of the Student Government Association Constitution.

SECTION III. Execution of this Particular Article

(a) The Student Body President, or his or her designee, shall faithfully execute the policies described in Section II, and shall regularly report to the Student Senate on the status of the execution of the policies contained in Section II. This Act may not be repealed by the Student Body President or considered "substantially accomplished" according to the process set forth in Title V, Chapter 901 of the Student Government Association Code.