The Student Senate
65th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By:  Chris Woolsey, Northside
               Chris Russo, Off Campus
               Thomas McNutt, Liberal Arts
               Austin Springer, Engineering
               Cary Cheshire, Legislative Affairs

The Religious Funding Exemption Bill

“A bill requesting that students who object to funding various services through their student fees and tuition for religious reasons be allowed to opt out from funding same.”

Whereas (1): Texas A&M University is a public institution, and as such, has an obligation to spend students’ money in ways that does not infringe upon their religious conscience; and,

Whereas (2): Many students disagree with the use of student fee and tuition money to pay for a number of services funded through those fees, for religious reasons; and,

Whereas (3): While it can be argued that many services are a worthy use of funds in order to provide a more enjoyable experience at Texas A&M, it is reasonable for students to object to a use of their own money that they feel violates their religious conscience; and,

Whereas (4): Students should be informed as well as possible about how their money is used; and,
Whereas (5): The broad varieties of religious views expressed by students are equally important, and the variety of services they disagree with should be treated with equal importance.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted (1): That the Texas A&M Student Senate shall support allowing students who object, for religious and moral purposes, to the use of their student fees and tuition to fund various services to opt out of paying an amount equal to their share of the service funding from their fee and tuition money, at the time of paying said bills; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted (2): That students are provided an electronic outlet to communicate their religious disagreements at the time of paying tuition and fees, with specific instructions on the process and a clear link to the proper office provided, as to make the process as simple as possible for both students and staff; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted (3): That, after students have expressed a disagreement, that the University issue a reply in a timely fashion notifying the student whether or not his/her disagreement is deemed valid; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted (4): That, if the disagreement is deemed valid, a refund equivalent to the amount in question be provided in a timely and efficient manner to the students, with no additional financial burden placed on the students; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted (5): That a copy of this bill shall be sent to:

• Mrs. B. J. Crain, Chief Financial Officer
• Dr R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M
• Mr. John Sharp, Chancellor, A&M System
• The members of the Texas A&M Board of Regents