



# The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 68-14

**The Student Senate  
68th Session  
Texas A&M University**

**Introduced By:** Finance Chair, Joseph Hood  
Jonah Chen, Off-Campus

**Sponsored By:** Taylor Day, Science  
Adam Lambert, Engineering  
Soheil Ebadat, Liberal Arts  
Steven Walker, Off-Campus  
Chase Giles, Off-Campus

**Action Taken**

**PASSED**

**Certified By:**

*Aaron Mitchell '16*  
Aaron Mitchell  
Speaker of the Senate  
11/6/15

**Duly Approved:**

*Joseph Benigno '16*  
Joseph Benigno  
Student Body President  
11/6/15

## 2015 SGA Tuition Stance Bill

*"A bill presenting the official stance of the Texas A&M Student Government Association in regards to a proposed tuition increase"*

**Whereas(1):** Texas A&M administration has proposed a tuition increase in the amount of \$260 per semester for students entering in Fall of 2016 and Fall of 2017 as well as transfer students and undergrads who stay in excess of four years; and,

**Whereas(2):** The Texas A&M system is requiring of all Texas A&M system universities to provide a variable tuition option for all new students starting in the Fall of 2016; and,

**Whereas(3):** The fixed tuition rate is guaranteed for four years for all students who are affected by this increase and the variable rate will change with respect to inflation based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI); and



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Speaker of the Senate

- Whereas(4):** Differential tuition increases have been proposed for the college of Ag and Life Sciences at a rate of \$322.46 per semester, and the college of Geosciences at a rate of \$136.94/sem, and the college of Science at a rate of \$93.60/sem, and the Dwight Look college of Engineering at a rate of \$175.16/sem, and the Mays School of Business at \$137.29/sem, for students entering Fall 2016 and after; and,
- Whereas(5):** Graduate school fee increases have been proposed for the programs of Online Petroleum Geoscience Masters at a rate of \$436 per year, and the program of Masters of Financial Management (Mays) at a rate of \$1000/yr, and the program of Masters of Science Business (Mays) at a rate of \$16,000/yr, and the program of Science Business (Mays) for a deposit of \$500, and the program of Master of Science (Mays) at a rate of \$200/sem; and,
- Whereas(6):** The increase to fixed tuition was based off an HEPI of 2.2% inflation and other increases to differential tuition and graduate tuition costs were at the discretion of the respective colleges and departments; and,
- Whereas(7):** We understand the need for revenue to increase as costs increase; and,
- Whereas(8):** Costs at Texas A&M have increased in areas such as library periodicals, technology, and general operations and will continue to do so for the indefinite future; and,
- Whereas(9):** Texas A&M has in the past demonstrated commendable cost saving efforts via the PwC university audit, private public partnerships, and general good stewardship of university monies; and,
- Whereas(10):** Texas A&M experienced a tuition increase of 93% from 2003 to 2013, and of the 44% of students who graduated from Texas A&M with debt, the debt was at an average of \$22,400; and,
- Whereas(11):** The effects of education debt on college graduates is one of the greatest threats to former and current students at Texas A&M and across the country; and,
- Whereas(12):** We cannot in good conscience support increasing the burden of the cost of college on the Aggie Family.



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**Therefore**

**Let it be**

**Enacted(1):** That SGA does not support the proposed fixed tuition increase at Texas A&M; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted(2):** If a variable tuition is approved, we ask that adequate education is provided for incoming students and all affected as to their options; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted(3):** That although SGA is concerned with the high increases to differential tuition and graduate school fees and tuition, we believe that the opinions of those affected cannot be adequately represented by our body at this time and should be addressed by those affected; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted(4):** We encourage the university to keep education costs low while maintaining the high quality of education for which Texas A&M is known; and,

**Let it be**

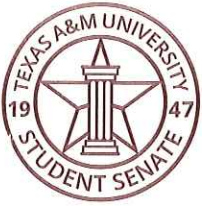
**Further**

**Enacted(5):** That SGA will express these concerns to the administration of Texas A&M and the University System before, during, and after the Board of Regents meeting where voting on the proposals will occur; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted(6):** A copy of this bill be sent to:  
Michael K. Young- President of Texas A&M University  
Dr. Jerry Strawser- CFO of Texas A&M University  
Dr. Karan Watson – Provost and Executive Vice President of Texas A&M University  
John Sharp – Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System  
Gabriel Pereira – Student Regent  
Cliff Thomas – Chairman of the Board of Regents



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Elaine Mendoza – Vice Chairman of the Board of Regents  
Phil Adams – Regent  
Robert L. Albritton – Regent  
Anthony G. Buzbee – Regent  
Morris E. Foster – Regent  
Bill Mahomes – Regent  
Judy Morgan – Regent  
Charles W. Schwartz – Regent  
Aimée Breaux – Editor in Chief of The Battalion