S.B. 64-49

The Student Senate
64th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Student Services Chair Thomas N. McNutt, Liberal Arts
Executive Vice President for Finance Kevin Pollak
Residence Hall Association President Brian McDonald
Senator Matt Struble, Off Campus
Senator Scott Bowen, Engineering
Senator Fernando Sosa, Southside
Student Fee Committee Member Tyler Moquin

Action Taken _Passed_
November 16, 2011

Certified By:

Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved: VETO '12 11-23-11

Jeff Pickering
Student Body President

2012-2013 SGA Report on Fee Increases Adoption Bill

"A bill enacting the recommendations of the SGA Student Fee Committee and adopting their report on proposed fee increases for the 2012-2013 fiscal year."
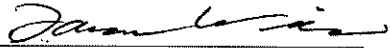
~ GENERAL LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR THIS BILL ~

Whereas(1):   The Texas A&M Student Government Association serves as the sole representative voice of the entire student body; and,

Whereas(2):   The Student Government Association Fee Committee was convened to formulate a report on student opinion on student fees known as the "Student Government Association Report on Proposed Fee Increases for 2012-2013"; and,

Whereas(3):   The Student Government Association Fee Committee believes that the best way to ensure that Texas A&M University remains the "best value" for students is through fiscal responsibility and scrutiny of student fee costs.

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Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(1):   That the Texas A&M Student Government Association shall compile the "Student Government Association Report on Proposed Fee Increases for 2012-2013," and all recommendations made therein, and adopt it as the official opinion of the Student Government Association for the proposed fee increases; and,

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(2):   That a copy of this legislation shall be presented along with the adopted report to the President of the University, Vice President for Student Affairs, University Student Fee Committee, each of the nine Texas A&M University System Regents as well as the Student Regent, and any other party deemed pertinent to the timely enactment of this legislation by the Student Body President within five (5) days of passage.

~ COMPUTER ACCESS/INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY FEE ~

Whereas(4):   The Department of Information Technology has requested a $0.83 per semester credit hour increase in the Computer Access Fee and a $0.17 per semester credit hour increase in the Instructional Technology Fee to support data centers, equipment, software, services for student access to computing, and instructional technology; and,

Whereas(5):   Voting unanimously (7-0), the Fee Committee opposed this increase because the revenue from increased student enrollment should cover the $1.3 million of projected expenses. Additionally, most of these are one-time expenses and should not be covered by permanent fee increases.
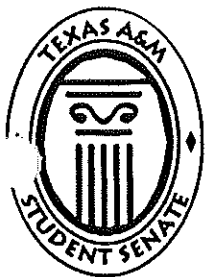
Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(3):   That the Texas A&M Student Government Association opposes the proposed increases to the Computer Access Fee and Instructional Technology Fee.

~ LIBRARY USE FEE ~

Whereas(6):   University Libraries has requested a $1.00 per semester credit hour increase in the Library Use Fee to cover increased costs due to inflation in journal and periodical licenses; and,

   Further Certified By: _(signature)_

Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Whereas(7):   Voting unanimously (7-0), the Fee Committee opposed this increase because the revenue from increased student enrollment should cover the projected expenses. Additionally, there should be more available data for journal use within the library services and University Libraries should cut subscriptions to journals they find are not being utilized.

**Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(4):**   That the Texas A&M Student Government Association opposes the proposed increases to the Library Use Fee.

~ UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER FEE~

Whereas(8):   The University Writing Center has requested a $2.00 per semester increase in the University Writing Center Fee to hire additional consultants in order to expand their hours and capabilities; and,

Whereas(9):   With a majority vote (6-1), the Fee Committee opposed this increase because the percentage of students that utilize the University Writing Center does not justify the requested increase. With increased student enrollment, the additional revenue should provide substantial funds.

**Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(5):**   That the Texas A&M Student Government Association opposes the proposed increases to the University Writing Center Fee.

~ DOMESTIC UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE ~

Whereas(10): The Office of Admissions has requested a $15.00 increase in the domestic undergraduate application fee to cover the costs of additional applications and paperwork; and,

Whereas(11): Voting unanimously (7-0), the Fee Committee opposed this increase because with lower costs, more potential students can be expected to apply, and therefore the process becomes more competitive. With higher competition, Texas A&M can become more competitive in academics, both nationally and within the State of Texas. Additionally, the costs to International Application Fees have not been increased, however the process costs for these applications will be a part of the Domestic Undergraduate Application Fee.

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Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(6): That the Texas A&M Student Government Association opposes the proposed increases to the domestic undergraduate application fee.

~ MASTERS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FEES ~

Whereas(12): The Mays Business School has requested an increase in the application fee for its MBA programs, an increase in the program fee for same, and a fee increase for those programs located in its CityCentre location in Houston, TX; and,

Whereas(13): These fees are applicable to a very small number of graduate students and do not materially affect the student body at large; and,

Whereas(14): While the Student Government Association represents all students, the Graduate Student Council is the primary representative body of the graduate student population. Thus, their opinion should hold precedence on matters that only affect graduate students.
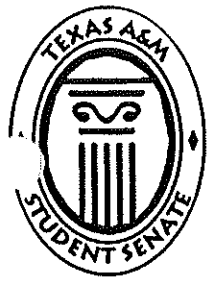
Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(7): That the Texas A&M Student Government Association shall take no position on these fee increases or new fees, and shall instead defer to the judgment of Graduate Student Council and support their recommendations on these three proposals.

~ RECREATIONAL SPORTS FEE ~

Whereas(15): The Department of Recreational Sports has requested a $4.08 per semester increase in the Recreational Sports Fee to cover lost revenue from the MSC Bookstore, a merit pay increase and operational funding; and,

Whereas(16): Voting unanimously (7-0), the Fee Committee opposed this increase because there will be no new or improved services provided by the Recreational Sports Center provided from this increase. As no other department in the University is receiving a merit pay increase, we cannot justify a merit pay increase for the Recreational Sports Center.

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Further Certified By: _____

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Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(8):   That the Texas A&M Student Government Association opposes the proposed
increases to the Recreational Sports Fee.

~ STUDENT SERVICE FEE ~

Whereas(17): The Student Service Fee Advisory Board (SSFAB) has recommended no increase
the Student Services Fee for fiscal year 2012-2013 and has presented
recommendations for the allocation of increased revenue from the additional
number of students attending Texas A&M; and,

Whereas(18): Voting unanimously (7-0), the Fee Committee endorsed the recommendation of
SSFAB to not raise the Student Service Fee for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(9):   That the Texas A&M Student Government Association approves the
recommendations made by SSFAB.