



The Student Senate

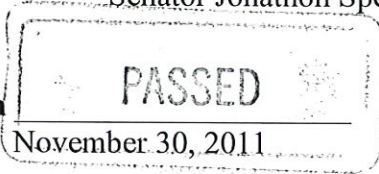
Texas A&M University

S.B. 64-61

The Student Senate
64th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Senator Cody T. Vasut, Off-Campus
Senator Jonathon Spencer, Engineering

Action Taken



Certified By:

Tanner Wilson
Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved:

Jeff Pickering '12
Jeff Pickering 12-7-11
Student Body President

The Opposition to Off-Semester Student Fee Implementations Act *Special Designation: Act of the Senate*

"An act establishing the permanent opposition of the Student Government Association to the implementation of any new fee, or related service charge, outside of the fall or spring academic semesters unless student input is received during a fall or spring academic semester."

- Whereas(1):** The Texas A&M Student Government Association is the official voice of all students at Texas A&M University; and,
- Whereas(2):** The Texas A&M Student Government Association believes in the principles of shared governance; and,
- Whereas(3):** Many Texas A&M University students are not on campus during the summer months or the winter break; and,
- Whereas(4):** The Texas A&M University administration has, from time to time, proposed or implemented new fees or service charges during these time periods, specifically in regards to mandatory on-campus meal plans; and,
- Whereas(5):** Currently the Student Body President would be free to lobby for these fees or service charges without any consultation by the Student Senate, which is out of session during these time periods; and,



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Whereas(6): The Texas A&M University administration could also pursue these fees or service charges without consulting the particular subset of the student body who is most affected by a fee (i.e., graduate students for graduate student specific fees, or business students for business student specific fees) because they too are not necessarily at Texas A&M University during these time periods; and,

Whereas(7): The Statutes of the Senate should be amended to prohibit or discourage these practices by Texas A&M University and the Student Body President.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted (1): That Title V Chapter 905 Article II is created to read as follows:

CHAPTER 905 – STUDENT FEES POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

Created by S.B. 64-XX

ARTICLE II. THE OPPOSITION TO OFF-SEMESTER STUDENT FEE IMPLEMENTATIONS ACT

SECTION I. Legislative Intent

- (a) The Student Senate intends this Act to prohibit the Student Body President from lobbying in favor of any student fee, quasi-fee, or other service charge that is proposed or implemented during the summer academic semesters or the winter break, unless the same was made public to the student body, or the subset of the student body it impacts, during a fall or spring academic semester.
- (b) The Student Senate further intends this Act to discourage Texas A&M University's administration from proposing and implementing student fees, quasi-fees, or other service charges during the summer academic semesters or the winter break without first consulting the Student Government Association or the subset of the student body impacted by the student fee during a fall or spring academic semester.

SECTION II. Definitions

- (a) Unless otherwise indicated within the context of this Article, the following words shall be assigned the following meanings:
 - (1) "Student fee, quasi fee, or other service charge" shall be defined as any new monetary fine, fee, or debit charged to any student. This will include any increase in tuition or differential tuition.
 - (2) "Fall or spring academic semesters" shall be defined as the fall or spring academic semesters established by the Registrar's Office of Texas A&M University and published on the Texas A&M University Academic Calendar.
 - (3) "Summer academic semester" shall be defined as the period of time between the end of a spring academic semester and the beginning of the immediately following fall academic semester.
 - (4) "Winter break" shall be defined as the period of time between the end of a fall academic semester and the beginning of the immediately following spring academic semester.

SECTION III. The Opposition to Off-Semester Student Fee Implementations Policy/Proposal.



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Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

- (a) It shall be the official permanent policy of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body of Texas A&M University, that the administration of Texas A&M University should not seek to propose or implement a new student fee, quasi-fee, or service charge that is to be charged against any student, during the summer academic semester or the winter break, unless the Student Government Association or the particular subset of the student body most affected by the new student fee, quasi-fee, or service charge, is consulted or notified during a fall or spring academic semester.
- (b) The Student Body President shall not lobby in favor of or support, but shall actively oppose, any new student fee, quasi-fee, or service charge that is to be charged against any student and that is proposed or implemented during a summer academic semester or the winter break, unless and until the Student Government Association or the particular subset of the student body most affected by the new student fee, quasi-fee, or service charge, is consulted or notified during a fall or spring academic semester.
- (1) This Sub-Section (b) shall never be deemed "substantially accomplished" pursuant to Chapter 901. This Sub-Section (b) shall not expire unless and until it is amended or repealed by the Student Senate.

SECTION IV. Execution of this Article

- (a) The Student Body President, or his or her designated member of the executive cabinet, shall faithfully execute the policies described in Section III, and shall report to the Student Senate annually during the month of November on the status of the execution of the policy contained in Section III Sub-Section (a).

**Let it be
Further**

Enacted (2): That the Student Body President summarize the policies contained in enactment clause (1) of this bill (Title V Chapter 904 Article II Section III) in a written letter submitted within fourteen (14) days to the President of Texas A&M University, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the chair and members of the Student Fee Committee.