



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 64-71

The Student Senate
64th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Senator Scott Bowen, Engineering

Action Taken

PASSED

January 25, 2012

Certified By:

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Tanner Wilson".

Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Student Opinion on Fees Act (SOFA) Referendum Bill
Special Designation: Referendum on a Proposed Statute

"A bill calling a referendum for the Spring 2012 Student Body Elections to approve or disapprove the Student Opinion on Fees Act (SOFA)"

- 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 being 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 through the referendum process; and,
- Whereas(4):** A policy of opposition to any fee or tuition increase that is not expressly approved by SGA legislation or a student referendum would carry additional legitimacy if passed by a majority vote of the student body.

Therefore
Let it be

Enacted(1): That the following binding referendum question shall be added to the ballot of the Spring 2012 Student Body Elections, with an electronic copy of this bill attached so that voters may read the entire act:

The Student Opinion on Fees Act (SOFA) would prohibit the Student Body President from supporting any fee or tuition increase that was not approved by either a Student Senate bill or a referendum of the student body. Do you support this legislation?



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Further Certified By: *Tanner Wilson*

Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Let it be

Further

Enacted(2): That in the event a majority of voters in the Spring 2012 Student Body Elections vote in the affirmative on the above question, the following shall be immediately added to Chapter 905 of the Student Government Association Code:

ARTICLE II. 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 approved by a bill of the Student Senate or by a referendum of the student body. This policy will endeavor to prevent fees and tuition from being permanently raised without the student approval due to disagreements within the Student Government Association (SGA).

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.