

DEPAUW STUDENT GOVERNMENT

A Resolution Concerning the Student Activities Fund

WHEREAS... the DePauw Student Life webpage claims, the “social life at DePauw connects people. Whether you get fired up about sports, or politics, or singing opera, you’ll find a community that appreciates your passion.”

WHEREAS... healthy student-run campus organizations are vital to the success of our students by providing safe spaces for cultural and spiritual student identities to congregate, leadership opportunities for students of all graduating years, and events that celebrate student unity.

WHEREAS... student groups and organizations are dependent upon the yearly Student Activity Fee included in the fiscal budget for funding. DePauw student organizations routinely request more funding for student organizations than can be allocated.

WHEREAS... requests for funding exceeded \$390,000 for Fall 2015, and the student activity fee for the 2015-2016 academic year is \$226 per student, totalling in approximately \$248,600 in available funds for that same year.

WHEREAS... DePauw Student Government has asked the university to increase the Student Activities Fee in both 2012 and 2014 with either resulting minimal increases in funding (2013-2014 school year) or no increases in funding (2015-2016 school year) despite continued demonstrated need.

WHEREAS... “As prices rise in general, more student organizations are created, and the student body seeks higher quality programming, a rise in the level of funding is necessary to maintain higher quality programming” (White Paper 2, 2012).

WHEREAS... “The discrepancies between what is requested and what is allocated continue to increase each year. In other words, since the 2012 White Paper, there has been a total of over \$40,000 more requested, and the amount available remains very similar to the total budget of 2012” (Resolution 4, 2014).

WHEREAS... DePauw wants to be a premier liberal arts college and school of music, and our student experience is hindered by our lack of available funds for all student endeavors. An increase in Student Activity Funding would allow for student organizations to host larger and more frequent events that the entire student body is welcome to attend.

WHEREAS...peer institutions are able to offer more student events and services because they have larger student activity fees, as represented in 2015-2016 academic year budgets:

DePauw- \$226

Allegheny- \$250

Kenyon- \$300

Wittenberg- \$300

Ohio Wesleyan- \$320

Earlham: \$330

Denison: \$430

Wabash: \$450

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the student activity fee for the 2016-2017 school year be increased to \$300 in order to fully accommodate the needs of all student organizations. Raising the fee will give student groups the opportunity to accomplish more of their goals and host more ambitious events that will make the DePauw Student Experience envied by other institutions across the country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Activities Fee be permanently set as a percentage of DePauw's tuition so that the fee reflects changes in student population, tastes and preferences, and general levels of higher education inflation ((White Paper No. 2 (2012), Resolution No. 4 (2014)).

Motioned by: Felix Amankwah

Seconded by: Kya Simmons

Aye 18

Aye 5

Nay 1

Nay 3

Abstain 0

Abstain 1

Attested by (DSG Secretary): Kate Porfilio

Approved by (DSG President): Craig Carter

Official signed copy is available upon request.