First Reading: November 10, 2015

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 11-15-F Resolution to Adopt an Amendment to the By-laws of the Student Government Association

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association (SGA) of Western Kentucky University to amend the Bylaws relating to the allocation of funding to students and departments

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University has hundreds of majors to offer to over 20,000 students both online and on campus, and

WHEREAS: In recent years, there have been large capital projects focusing on a select few departments and majors that have led to inadequate funding for some departments and majors, and

WHEREAS: All students that choose to come to Western Kentucky University are part of the fabric that make this university great and as such need to be able to have the most in-depth educational experience possible to obtain the necessary skills for life and their career after graduation, and

WHEREAS: The SGA Judicial Council has passed a judicial interpretation stating that the finances provided by Student Government Association would benefit not only students, but also the department faculty and staff, and do not want to establish precedent of allowing SGA funds to be provided to departments, and

WHEREAS: The precedent has already been established by allocating $1,200.00 towards Bill 6-15-S in which money was allocated from SGA Senate discretionary funding to purchase new viticulture equipment and help expand a new field of research and attract new students to WKU, and

WHEREAS: The stipulation of withholding funding from already underfunded departments based on the money going to departments rather than students harms the ability of these departments to provide for students already enrolled in the departments in question by, and

WHEREAS: In the Judicial Ruling, it states that, “any student is allowed to participate and benefits from funds associated with student groups; conversely, any student may not be allowed to benefit from departmental funds unless they are in the major, a much more exclusive status than that of membership to a student group”, and

WHEREAS: Various student groups at Western Kentucky University such as can be exclusive based on certain non-discriminatory criteria such as individual grade point average and behavioral standards, and

WHEREAS: Much like students can change their extra-curricular schedule to those that suit their interests, in theory students can also change their respective majors while enrolled at Western Kentucky University to utilize the equipment that interests them, and

WHEREAS: If a student fails to receive an education utilizing technology that reflects the uses in the modern era, the student of Western Kentucky University will not be able to find a suitable job and career path upon graduating, and

WHEREAS: In the Judicial Ruling there is an emphasis on the student group from Bill 9-15-F “League of Sculptures” [sic], stating that any student group may still be eligible to receive assistance from our Organizational Aid program which sponsors student ran and student led groups,

WHEREAS: The cap on student aid is set at $500.00 per agreed upon restrictions, and using this argument the League of Sculptors would not have been able to raise enough funding to purchase the 3-D printer, and

WHEREAS: Currently the 2015-2016 budget for SGA already allocated thousands of dollars towards student groups in a separate budget known as “Organizational Aid” or Org Aid which directly benefit student groups for much needed aid for short term projects such as event travel and conference fees, and

WHEREAS: Currently the 2015-2016 budget for SGA discretionary funding allocated $8,000.00 to the Legislative department of the Senate, and

WHEREAS: Bearing in mind the frenzied results of the last senate session of the 2015 spring season, it is paramount that there should not be too much of an excess at the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year to avoid conflict and strife over what should or should not be funded with residual money that would otherwise be reabsorbed by WKU, and

WHEREAS: The allocated $8,000.00 of the Legislative department of the Senate (while small in comparison to construction fees) can help to make a real difference in student life on campus if invested in the right areas, and

WHEREAS: The unanimous agreement of the SGA Senate to give discretionary funding to these organizations showcases the approval of the entire SGA Senate in funding these measures, and

WHEREAS: These items are to be used by the departments to set up entirely new classes that can attract new students to Western Kentucky University and showcase our ability to be “A Leading University with International Reach”, and

WHEREAS: In order for new majors and classes based around new equipment to be founded by departments it is imperative that the department in question have access to the equipment in question rather than student groups,

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University resolve to change “Bylaw 6.1 Funding Restrictions” from:

*“The Student Government Association may allocate funds solely to students. All students may be required to finance a portion of their expenses by supplementary income.”*

to

*“The Student Government Association may allocate funds solely to areas which benefit student learning. All students may be required to finance a portion of these expenses by supplementary income.”*

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