First Reading: October 15th

Second Reading: October 23rd

Pass: YES

Fail:

Other:

Bill 13-18-F. Funding for the First-Generation Scholarship of SGA

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $2,000 to create a recurring First-Generation Scholarship; a scholarship for full-time students whose parents did not achieve a bachelor’s degree and who have significant financial need.

WHEREAS: First-generation college students have significant challenges to successfully achieving a degree not faced by many other students including lack of financial resources and guidance, and

WHEREAS: A first-generation college student is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as a student from a family where neither parent holds a bachelor's degree, and

WHEREAS: This scholarship seeks to help these students access the opportunity to get an education, and

WHEREAS: A large pool of potential scholarship candidates exists on WKU’s campus as according to the 2017 WKU Fact Book, in the fall of 2016, an estimated 34.8% of First-Time, First Year students were First-Generation Students and many students within the WKU TRiO Student Support Service Center whose mission is to increase college retention and the graduation rates of first-generation and low-income students, and

WHEREAS: Members of the SGA and the authors of this bill will be ineligible for this scholarship unless an external review panel is created; made up of students not associated with SGA and selected in conjunction by the Director of Academic and Student Affairs and the Administrative Vice President of SGA to review applications of the SGA member and/or authors who may choose to apply and submit the winning names to the Director of Academic & Student Affairs who will then notify the winners, and

WHEREAS: Eligibility for the scholarship will be limited to first-generation college students who are enrolled full-time, and

WHEREAS: The SGA Academic & Student Affairs Committee shall determine how many recipients will receive scholarship funding for this semester as to benefit the maximum number of students possible, and

WHEREAS: This scholarship, once approved will become a permanent and recurring scholarship within SGA every academic year, and the funding of $2,000 will be allocated to this scholarship each academic year unless increased by future legislation, and

WHEREAS: The money will come from the scholarship fund.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate $2,000 to create the First-Generation Scholarship, a recurring scholarship for students whose parents did not achieve a bachelor’s degree and who have significant financial need.

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