First Reading: 2-19-13

Second Reading: 3-5-13

Pass: Passed

Other:

Resolution 06-13-F Resolution to Oppose the Study Abroad and Global Learning Fee of $150 Per Student Applying for a Study Abroad Program.

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to officially oppose any imposed Study Abroad Application fee for all study abroad programs.

WHEREAS: On January 30, 2013, Western Kentucky University instituted a $150 application fee for all students studying abroad, beginning with the summer 2013 study abroad programs, and

WHEREAS: The fee is automatically charged to a student’s Topnet account upon registration in any study abroad course and is nonrefundable, and

WHEREAS: Study abroad program leaders work meticulously to develop programs and budgets that are attractive to students, and an increase in the cost of the program by 1% to 10% is a significant, not a modest, change, and

WHEREAS: This additional charge over already increased costs of studying abroad may push programs out of the range for many students, and

WHEREAS: Study abroad advisors and faculty were in the process of recruiting students at the time of the announcement, and

WHEREAS: Study abroad program leaders received notification of this fee, at the same time it was announced to student participants and shown on the Study Abroad and Global Learning website, and

WHEREAS: Students having applied to study abroad programs prior to the implementation date of this fee or cancelling their travel program should not be subject to paying the $150, and

WHEREAS: As representatives of the student body, we are supportive of the internationalization efforts of Western Kentucky University, and we value the additional funding these efforts demand. However, communication with the committees, faculty, and students is essential to securing funding in an appropriate and positive manner, and

WHEREAS: The internationalization efforts of Western Kentucky University go far beyond study abroad; our goal is to increase opportunities for all students, regardless of their travel abroad status, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University officially oppose any imposed Study Abroad Application Fee applied to programs that have been announced and advertised prior to the imposition of the fee, and

THEREFORE: Be it further resolved that the Office of International Programs and the Office of Study Abroad and Global Learning work with administrators to secure other sources of funding to increase the internationalization efforts of the University, and

THEREFORE: Be it further resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University officially opposes study abroad fees assessed to any study abroad program.

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