First Reading: November 10, 2015

Second Reading: November 17, 2015

Pass: YES

Other:

Resolution 6-15-F Resolution to Support Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccinations for Incoming Freshmen

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the requirement of meningitis vaccinations for all incoming freshmen, beginning with the freshman Class of 2020.

WHEREAS: Meningitis is a disease resulting in a serious infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Ten percent of those who contract meningitis die of the disease. One in five meningitis survivors experiences brain damage, hearing loss, loss of limbs, or physical scarring. Eighty-three percent of adolescent cases in the United States could be prevented with a single vaccine, and

WHEREAS: Meningitis is spread through person to person contact. This can include: sharing food or drink, kissing, and living in close quarters (such as residence halls). Oftentimes a carrier of meningitis may never contract an infection, but can still pass on the disease to other people. Additionally, activities that weaken the immune system, such as irregular sleeping patterns, increase ones risk of contracting meningitis. According to the Center for Disease Control, college students living in residence halls are at a risk six times greater than other students, and

WHEREAS: Twenty five states have already passed legislation concerning meningococcal vaccinations for college students. Students attending universities in Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia must receive a meningitis vaccination or sign a waiver stating that they have been informed of the disease and choose not to be immunized, and

WHEREAS: Both the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky require meningitis vaccinations for incoming freshman. Currently, Western Kentucky University does not require any immunizations or proof of vaccinations, but lists Meningitis as an available vaccine, and

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University will not be required to pay for any student’s vaccinations. Students may choose to be vaccinated at the Graves Gilbert Clinic or any location where vaccines are provided. Upon passage of this resolution, proof of meningococcal vaccination must be provided with one’s freshman housing deposit.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University supports the requirement of meningitis vaccinations for all incoming freshmen, beginning with the freshman class of 2020.

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SPONSOR: Campus Improvements

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