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CALL UPON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE THE 2019 FORMULA GROUP REVIEW TASK FORCE’S PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: SGB PRESIDENT MAGGIE KENNEDY AND SGB VP CHIEF OF FINANCE CORY STILLMAN

CO-SPONSORED BY: BOARD MEMBERS JAHARI MERCER, JESSA CHONG, POOJA HUMAR, RAJAAB NADEEM, COLE DUNN, ZECHARIAH BROWN, AND ALBERT TANJIYA; SGB ALLOCATIONS CHAIR ETHAN GERTZMAN


9 APRIL 2019

READ THE SECOND TIME AND VOTED ON.

A RESOLUTION

CALL UPON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE THE 2019 FORMULA GROUP REVIEW TASK FORCE’S PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

1 WHEREAS, the Student Activities Fund is made up of
2 contributions from each Pitt undergraduate non-CGS student’s $80/semester activities fee;

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WHEREAS, this Fund is then distributed to the Formula Groups, which currently includes The Student Government Board, WPTS Radio, Pitt Program Council, and the office of Pitt Serves, including the Student Office of Sustainability;

WHEREAS, this $80 semester fee has not raised in 15 years and therefore has not adjusted to inflation;

WHEREAS, the number of Pitt students has increased over the years, so has the number of students involved with the Formula Groups and other student organizations, which receive funding through the SGB Allocations process;

WHEREAS, there are now 669 student organizations listed on Pitt’s Engage platform;

WHEREAS, the $80 per student per semester does not have the same buying power in 2019 that it did in 2004;

WHEREAS, the last increase was on June 25, 2004, bringing the fee from $60 to $80 for full-time non-CGS undergraduate students;

WHEREAS, since that time, in-state tuition has increased from $8,614 to $18,130;

WHEREAS, if student activities fee increased at the same rate, it would currently be $336.75/yr. or $168.38/sem;

WHEREAS, to keep pace with inflation, the $80 in 2004 would be equivalent to $107.05 in 2019.

WHEREAS, all Formula Groups and registered student organizations have become increasingly stretched thin to cover costs and maintain their programs for students;

WHEREAS, the Student Organization Resource Center and other administrative needs pertaining to Student Life have been similarly stretched thin;

WHEREAS, The Pitt News (TPN) has demonstrated a strong importance for Pitt student activity and journalism education, but given the mass-market decline in the print news media industry, they can no longer sustain itself financially; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, on this 2nd day of April in the year 2019, the Student Government Board calls on the University of Pittsburgh’s Board of Trustees to vote to approve the 2019 Formula Group Review Task Force’s Proposal to Raise the Student Activity Fee as follows:

- From $80/semester to $100/semester per undergraduate, non-CGS student (an increase from $160/year to $200/year)
- This would bring the total income to $3,454,217.50
- Breakdown the Formula Groups as follows-
  - PPC- 26.9% ($929,184.51)
  - WPTS FM- 5% ($172,710.88)
  - PittServes- 7.40% ($255,612.10)
  - SOOS- 0.30% ($10,362.65)
  - SGB- 1.4% ($48,359.05)
  - The Pitt News- 2% ($69,084.35)

RESOLVED, that the explanation of this decision will be given to all students who will be paying the Student Activities Fee beginning in the fall of 2019; and be it finally

RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption and shall reflect the official position of the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board.

ADOPTED: this 9th day of April 2019 by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Maggie Kennedy, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board