

# **B.R.2019.03**

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

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## **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 TANJAYA; SGB  
ALLOCATIONS CHAIR ETHAN GERTZMAN

THE 2019 FORMULA GROUP REVIEW TASK FORCE INCLUDING: GREGORY WESTON AND  
ADELE SPINDER- WPTS FM, ELLIE CADDEN- PITT SERVES/SOOS, CHRIS DAVIS- PITT  
SERVES/PMADD, NIKI IYER- PITT PROGRAM COUNCIL, STEVE ANDERSON- ASSOCIATE  
DEAN AND DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE LIFE, LINDA WILLIAMS MOORE- ASSOCIATE DEAN  
AND DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE, BRIAN HAMLUK- ASSOCIATE DEAN AND DIRECTOR OF  
ADMINISTRATION, CHRISTIAN SNYDER, TERRY LUCAS, AND RACHEL BUCK- THE PITT  
NEWS

2 APRIL 2019

PRESIDENT KENNEDY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION; WHICH WAS READ FOR  
THE FIRST TIME.

9 APRIL 2019

READ THE SECOND TIME AND VOTED ON.

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## **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  
3 student's \$80/semester activities fee;

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, there are now 669 student organizations listed on  
17 Pitt's Engage platform;

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

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

23 WHEREAS, since that time, in-state tuition has increased from  
24 \$8,614 to \$18,130;

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

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, The Pitt News (TPN) has demonstrated a strong  
37 importance for Pitt student activity and journalism  
38 education, but given the mass-market decline in the  
39 print news media industry, they can no longer sustain  
40 itself financially; *now, therefore be it*

41 RESOLVED, on this 2nd day of April in the year 2019, the Student  
42 Government Board calls on the University of  
43 Pittsburgh's Board of Trustees to vote to approve the  
44 2019 Formula Group Review Task Force's Proposal to  
45 Raise the Student Activity Fee as follows:

- 46 • From \$80/semester to \$100/semester per
- 47 undergraduate, non-CGS student (an increase
- 48 from \$160/year to \$200/year)
- 49 • This would bring the total income to
- 50 \$3,454,217.50
- 51 • Breakdown the Formula Groups as follows-
- 52 • PPC- 26.9% (\$929,184.51)
- 53 • WPTS FM- 5% (\$172,710.88)
- 54 • PittServes- 7.40% (\$255,612.10)
- 55 • SOOS- 0.30% (\$10,362.65)
- 56 • SGB- 1.4% (\$48,359.05)
- 57 • The Pitt News- 2% (\$69,084.35)

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

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

64 ADOPTED: this 9th day of April 2019 by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and  
65 0 abstentions.

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Maggie Kennedy, President  
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board