

ATTACHMENT A: Student Government Resolution 2023.01

Proposed Tuition Increase FY' 24-25

The Student Government Council (SGC) of Washington State University

Resolution 2023.01

Approved by the SGC Voting Members on December 04, 2023

WHEREAS, the Student Government Council of Washington State University is composed of undergraduate and graduate-professional students from all six Washington State University (WSU) Campuses, who all pay the system wide set tuition rates as set by the Washington State University's Board of Regents;

WHEREAS, Article III of the Student Government Council's Bylaws states that SGC has the power to "adopt resolutions or position statements on issues related to needs and interests of WSU students";

WHEREAS, the Washington State University Budget Office has proposed a 3% increase in tuition for FY' 24-25, the maximum allowable increase for resident undergraduate students as determined by the Office of Financial Management, leading to a \$329 annual increase for resident undergraduates, an \$812 increase for non-resident undergraduates, a \$380 increase for resident graduates, and an \$835 increase for non-resident graduates;

WHEREAS, the core operating budget for FY24 is estimated at \$1.228 billion, with approximately 90% derived from tuition and state appropriations, and this funding is pivotal for managing expenses primarily consisting of salaries, wages, benefits, and operations;

WHEREAS, the proposed tuition increase is a response to several financial challenges, including a decline in enrollment since 2020, leading to reduced tuition revenue, and the impact of inflation as reflected in the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) outpacing the rate of tuition increases;

WHEREAS, Washington State University upholds its core values rooted in the land-grant ideals, it is imperative to remind the institution that the proposed tuition increases pose a potential barrier to these very ideals. Access to education, a cornerstone of these land-grant principles, is at risk when financial burdens on students are heightened;

WHEREAS, costs in other expense areas for students, such as housing, groceries, and transportation, are also being increased due to inflation. The accumulation of these increases along with a 3% tuition increase puts an undue financial burden on students who may then not be able to afford higher education;

WHEREAS, the SGC recognizes the importance of balancing the need to maintain quality educational services and facilities with the imperative of keeping education affordable for students;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Government Council of Washington State University does not oppose a tuition increase for FY' 24-25 as we understand an increase is

necessary for the university. However, we urge the Board of Regents to consider adopting a 2.5% tuition increase to lessen the burden on students. This would lead to a \$274 annual increase for resident undergraduates, a \$676 increase for non-resident undergraduates, a \$317 increase for resident graduates, and a \$696 increase for non-resident graduates. Further, we urge Washington State University administration to intensify legislative efforts for increased state appropriations to mitigate the financial burden on students and ensure the continued provision of high-quality and accessible education and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Council of Washington State University recommends that the University administration continues to explore and implement cost-saving measures and seek additional revenue sources that do not disproportionately impact students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Council of Washington State University is committed to partnering with WSU Governmental Relations to pursue legislative efforts that will result in an increase of state appropriations.

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