

First Reading: February 16, 2016
Second Reading: February 16, 2016
Pass: Yes; unanimous

Resolution 2-16-S Resolution to Oppose a Tuition Freeze for Students in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PURPOSE: For the WKU Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to oppose Senate Bill 75, an Act relating to tuition and fees for postsecondary education and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS: Universities in Kentucky are facing ominous budget cuts for the 2016-2018 biennium budget from the Kentucky General Assembly and Governor, and

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is a multimillion-dollar enterprise that relies on revenue from various sources, primarily student tuition, and

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University students have seen tuition increases in recent years due to both budget cuts from the Kentucky General Assembly as well as decisions made by members of the WKU administration, and

WHEREAS: The maintaining of college affordability by opposing unnecessary tuition and fee increases is a paramount goal of the WKU Student Government Association, and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 75, which would halt indefinitely the increase of tuition at universities at Kentucky public universities, reads as follows:

Section 1. KRS 164.020 is amended to read as follows:

(c) 1. For the 2016-2017 through the 2019-2020 academic years, tuition for resident students shall not exceed the amount of tuition charged to resident students for the 2015-2016 academic year.

2. Tuition increases for resident students for the 2020-2021 academic year and thereafter are to be determined in consultation with the General Assembly;¹ and

¹ <https://legiscan.com/KY/text/SB75/2016>

WHEREAS: The implementation of a tuition freeze for Kentucky students, while reducing the over encumbering of student loan debt, would place WKU in a very precarious budgetary dilemma, likely resulting in major reductions of programs offered to students, termination of various faculty and staff positions, and overall cuts to students' college experience, and

WHEREAS: The WKU Student Government Association expresses deep concern over the budgetary implications of severing student revenue from the university, and

WHEREAS: The WKU Student Government Association supports standing in solidarity with all members of the WKU community against deep funding reductions for the 2016-2018 biennium budget and is committed to the notion that students should not back away from their responsibilities to WKU, and

WHEREAS: The WKU Student Government Association does not support a tuition increase that finances the entire budget shortfall, and

WHEREAS: The WKU Student Government Association is the official voice of the WKU student body and all decisions made are in the absolute best interests of all WKU students.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the WKU Student Government Association opposes Senate Bill 75, An Act relating to tuition and fees for postsecondary education and declaring an emergency.

AUTHOR: Jay Todd Richey

SPONSOR: Legislative Research Committee

CONTACTS: Robbin Taylor, WKU Vice President of Public Affairs