

First Reading: March 21, 2017

Second Reading: April 4, 2017

Pass: YES; 27-3-0

Fail:

Other:

Bill 19-17-S Bill to Fund the WKU Makerspace for new equipment

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate a total of \$650 from discretionary legislative funding to the WKU Makerspace

WHEREAS The WKU Makerspace located on South Campus is a student-centered open-access resource opened in Fall 2016, and

WHEREAS: Universities nationwide are embracing the makerspace movement because such spaces “foster highly beneficial interdisciplinary interactions and supportive peer communities that extend beyond the boundaries of a makerspace” (MIT 2016), and

WHEREAS: Spectacular makerspaces exist at MIT, Berkeley, and Yale. In 2015, Case Western Reserve University opened a 50,000 square foot public facility that influences nearly 40% of student decisions to attend the university. Successful makerspaces bring together varied disciplines in a collaborative community of shared learning that adapts to the users’ interests, offers mentoring, builds community and networks, and creates safe learning environments, and

WHEREAS: Depending on final funding amounts, new equipment could range from robotic equipment to a laser cutting machine which complement the various devices that the Makerspace already owns (3D printer, vinyl cutter, XCarve CNC router) that students are motivated to learn to produce their ideas, and

WHEREAS: According to the faculty mentor of the Makerspace, Anne Heitzman, a private donor will offer a matching grant dependent on the amount of funding SGA is willing to give to this program, and

WHEREAS: The additional equipment can fulfill a variety of functions in a sustainable way, attracting more interest from various students and creating a more harmonious student life on campus, and

WHEREAS: This Makerspace is open to all students regardless of major or background, providing a way for students to receive a more comprehensive education during their time at WKU, including a directly-mentored student who has already been awarded a FUSE grant for Spring 2017,

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University support the allocation of a total of \$650 from discretionary legislative funding to the WKU Makerspace Program

AUTHORS: Jody Dahmer, SGA Senator
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SPONSOR: Sustainability

CONTACTS: Anne Heitzman, WKU Faculty, WKU Makerspace Faculty Advisor

BUDGET:

Laser Cutter Estimated Costs:

Laser Cutter range of costs (dependent on funding):

- Glowforge \$3000 or
- Full Spectrum \$3,500 or
- Orion Motor Tech \$1,800 or
- Chinese knockoff \$ 500

DIY venting parts/supplies \$ 300

Alternative or Additional Equipment (dependent on funding):

Introductory Robotic Kits: Elenco Line Following Bot (\$20 eachx6)\$120

Raspberry Pi (Zeros (\$10 ea. & IIIs \$30 ea. and component parts) reusable
for a variety of robotic and computer programming projects \$400

Fluke 115 Compact True-RMS Digital Multimeter\$130