



RESOLUTION No. 2012-13-5

REFERRED TO: AS COUNCIL
ACTION APPROVED: November 5, 2012

AUTHORED BY: Jerry Dinzes, Students At-large
Taylor Cannon, Students At-large

SUBJECT: Resolution of Opposition to the CSU's Proposed Fee Package Hikes

WHEREAS, The State Legislature mandates within the Donahoe Higher Education Act that the people of California “should have the opportunity to continue as long and as far as his or her capacity and motivation, as indicated by academic performance and commitment to educational advancement, will lead him or her to meet academic standards and institutional requirements” (66201); and,

WHEREAS, The CSU’s declared mission statement “requires of its advanced degree and credential recipients a depth of knowledge, completeness of understanding, and appreciation of excellence that enables them to contribute continuously to the advancement of their fields and professions;” and,

WHEREAS, The proposed Course Repeat Fee, Graduation Incentive Fee, and Third Tier Fee, which shall further be referred to jointly as the “Fee Package”, seek to continue to close the CSU funding gap with yet another round of fee/tuition increases; and,

WHEREAS, According to HSU’s Campus Quality Survey (Fall 2012), “The greatest obstacle to completing an education is financial factors. Nearly 30% of students ranked this [as their number one obstacle];” and,

WHEREAS, The Third Tier Fee for resident undergraduates would increase the fee per unit by \$200 for every unit beyond 17 units in a semester (BOT Agenda September 2012); and,

WHEREAS, At HSU 11.2% of the student body (excluding graduate and credential based students) took over 17 units during the Fall 2011, averaging 18.9 units per student (extrapolated from Institutional Research and Planning data); and,

WHEREAS, Policies that prevent students from enrolling in empty seats, prior to the enrollment deadline, do not sensibly function at the betterment of students, nor do they increase graduation rates, a stated intention of the Fee Package; and,

WHEREAS, The Course Repeat Fee for resident undergraduates would increase the fee per unit of repeated courses by \$100 per unit; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University has already implemented a policy regarding students’ ability to repeat courses, and further policy would amount to bureaucratic redundancy; and,

WHEREAS, According to CSU Statistical Abstracts, the tuition of students affected by the Graduation Incentive Fee has already increased 64% in the last four years, and 318% over the last decade; and, the proposed addition of \$372 per unit, or an amount equal to out of state tuition, for every unit beyond 150 units that a student enrolls in, would be a restricting barrier to their education; and,

WHEREAS, Many “super seniors” have qualitatively unique situations that have led them to approach the 150 unit mark more swiftly than others, such as career changes, vocational courses taken at community colleges, higher education exploration at community colleges, family commitments, multiple minors, extended education coursework, continuing education coursework, additional certificate programs, or double majors, all of which are not taken into consideration under the proposed Graduation Incentive Fee; and,

WHEREAS, HSU is well known for our environmental and biological science programs; and, data sets from the HSU Institutional Research and Planning illustrate that students who graduated between the Spring of 2006 and 2009 with BS degrees acquired an average total of 165.1 units, a comparatively higher number than the average of 149.7 units completed by students who graduate with a BA; thus students pursuing a BS would be disproportionately harmed by the proposed Graduation Incentive Fee; and,

WHEREAS, The State Legislature acknowledges the goal and significance of equity in public higher education in that the “state’s future economic, social, and cultural development depends upon ensuring that all its citizens have opportunities to contribute their best to society” (66002 (f)(1)); and,

WHEREAS, Students from disadvantaged and underfunded public schools, as well as English Language Learners, may require more units at college due to matriculation, remediation, and prerequisite courses before completing traditional degree requirements; and,

WHEREAS, The 6 year Underrepresented Minority (URM) graduation rate at HSU has plummeted by 14% during the last decade, a period which has also seen a 318% tuition increase; and, the Chancellor’s office has not sufficiently shown that the proposed Fee Package will not result in lower graduation rates among URM students; and,

WHEREAS, According to the HSU Report on English Remediation (Fall 2011), “Students with disabilities had a higher proportion (42%) of students who needed English remediation as compared to all students (31%),” and as the proposed Fee Package does not account for the needs of disabled students, a high potential for disproportionate affects exists; and,

WHEREAS, The Associated Students of Humboldt State University are committed to the interests of those students currently enrolled in the CSU higher education system who have been actively pursuing both bachelor’s and master’s degrees and should be allowed to complete their college academic plans without undue restraints, while also desiring the creation of policy that protects the interests of incoming freshman and transfer students as well; and,

WHEREAS, The Associated Students of Humboldt State University recognizes the tough and complex decisions that the Board of Trustees has had to make, and, acknowledges that it is clear that a piecemeal approach based upon continuous fee increases is no longer a viable and sustainable solution; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of Humboldt State University are opposed to the proposed Fee Package that could prevent current and future students from obtaining degrees in a timely fashion, if at all; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That before a Graduation Incentive Fee is approved, or any other fee declaring a hard limit on financial aid based upon a specific unit cap, the Board of Trustees should analyze the effects of such a regulation upon California’s URM students who have a protected status and a rich history within the CSU; be it further,

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of Humboldt State University call upon the Board of Trustees to better represent the individuals of the various CSU institutes by implementing further measures to solicit and examine the opinions and ideas of students, alumni, and faculty, in seeking the creation of solutions to complex educational issues, and be it finally,

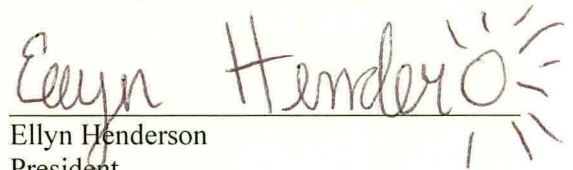
RESOLVED, This resolution shall be sent to, but not limited to: incoming CSU Chancellor, Dr. Thomas White; outgoing CSU Chancellor, Dr. Charles Reed; All members of the CSU Board of Trustees; HSU President, Dr. Rollin Richmond; Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Peg Blake; Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Snyder; The University Senate; All University Departments; all local and State media outlets; and all CSU Associated Students



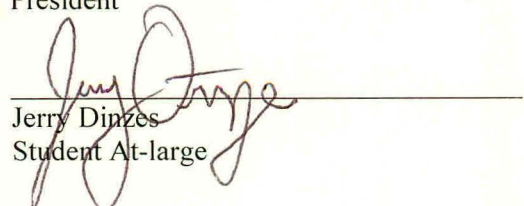
Matt Lutwen
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