

Passed as amended with
role call vote
24/6

AR 27: In Support of a Campus-Wide Referendum on Tuition

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Sponsors: Charley Aberg, Bernadette De La Cruz, Austin Carlson, Chase Covington, Yaman Desai, Veronica Fassio, Allison Ginger, John Lawler, Viridiana Medellin, Desmond Schipper, Morgan Stewart, Kristin Thompson, Roxanne Weiss, and Kevin Yuan

WHEREAS, The Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin serves as the official voice of students to The University of Texas System Board of Regents; and,

WHEREAS, Student Government, as allowed by its constitution, can choose to conduct a referendum regarding pressing campus concerns; and

WHEREAS, The results of a referendum are not scientific in nature; and

WHEREAS, During fall of 2011, the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee, after a series of open forums and private meetings, recommended a tuition increase; and,

WHEREAS, President Bill Powers has issued a similar proposal to The University of Texas System Board of Regents, who will set tuition this year; and,

WHEREAS, Student Government has not yet adopted an official position on the proposed tuition increase; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin shall include on the ballot in its spring 2012 general elections a campus-wide referendum concerning the proposed tuition increase; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the language of the proposed referendum will read as follows:

In an attempt to gain a broader understanding of student opinion, Student Government has provided the following questions. We encourage you to review the following educational links and summary provided below.

- \$92 million cuts to the university's state allocation in the next biennium.*
- TPAC proposed a 2.6 increase for resident undergrads, 3.6 for other students.*
- 2.6 percent, the rate increase that would potentially impact the most students, reflects the weighted consumer price index for the past few years.*
- The proposed increase would generate roughly \$30 million to help mitigate the other cuts*

Question 1: Do you support the proposed tuition increase over the next two years?

Question 2: Would you accept budget cuts to a wide range of university services and programs?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the results of this referendum shall be a means of gathering student opinion; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin supports the creation and implementation of a campus-wide survey on affordability, tuition, and budgetary concerns as soon as feasible; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Student Government believes that conducting a referendum and campus-wide survey will provide students the opportunity to offer an opinion on the proposed tuition increases; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Student Government will, to the best of its abilities, work with other legislative student organizations on campus to ensure that students and other key constituencies are informed of this referendum; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Student Government will announce the results of the referendum at the same time as all general election results; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution and a summary of this resolution be delivered to the the Office of the President, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Office of the Dean of Students, the deans of each college, the chairs of each College Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee, members of the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee, and The Daily Texan.