



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE INCREASE

Senator Will Manning, Senator Pablo Gonzalez, Speaker Sydney Broderick

Student Affairs Committee

65th Senate

1st Session

RESOLUTION [The Secretary will handle numbering of bills and resolutions]

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE FOR AN INCREASE TO THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FROM \$25 to \$50 PER SEMESTER BEGINNING FALL 2027.

WHEREAS, the Student Activity Fee exists to enhance the educational experience of Mississippi State University students by supporting student organizations, leadership development, student wellbeing initiatives, campus traditions, graduate student engagement, and University Recreation;

WHEREAS, the current Student Activity Fee of \$25 per semester has remained unchanged since its implementation in Fiscal Year 2023 and currently generates approximately \$875,000 annually to support these critical student-facing programs and services;

WHEREAS, since the implementation of the current fee, Mississippi State University has experienced increasing demand for funding, mental health and wellbeing initiatives, leadership development opportunities, campus programming, recreation services, and other initiatives that directly contribute to student recruitment, retention, engagement, and success;

WHEREAS, the proposed increase from \$25 to \$50 per semester would generate approximately \$1.75 million annually, creating nearly \$900,000 in additional annual investment capacity dedicated exclusively to enhancing the student experience;

WHEREAS, the proposed investment would strengthen student organizations and leadership development, expand student wellbeing and success initiatives, enhance campus programming and traditions, improve graduate student engagement opportunities, and provide significant investments in University Recreation programming and facilities;

WHEREAS, current restrictions on the use of Student Activity Fee revenue limit the ability of units receiving such funds to use those resources for student-worker wages, even when student employees are directly responsible for implementing, operating, or supporting programs and services funded by the Student Activity Fee;

WHEREAS, permitting Student Activity Fee revenue to support student-worker wages when those positions directly advance the programs, services, and activities supported by the fee would provide greater flexibility in the administration of these funds while creating additional employment opportunities for Mississippi State University students;

WHEREAS, the Student Activity Fee has historically served as supplemental funding that expands opportunities for students rather than replacing existing University funding, ensuring that investments remain focused on enhancing the student experience;

WHEREAS, the original Student Activity Fee was established following demonstrated student support and was created specifically to provide sustainable funding for student organizations, campus programming, and student life initiatives because existing funding sources were insufficient to meet student needs;

WHEREAS, this proposal represents the next phase of that investment by building upon the success of the current fee structure rather than creating an entirely new mandatory fee;

WHEREAS, University administration has completed extensive review of this proposal and has authorized it to move forward through the University's governance process, including approval to seek a Resolution of Student Support from the Student Association Senate prior to submission to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning;

WHEREAS, this proposal has received approval to proceed from Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Regina Hyatt, Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. David Shaw, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Jackie Mullen, Chief Financial Officer Mr. Les Potts, and President Dr. Mark E. Keenum, with the understanding that adoption of a Resolution of Student Support by the Student Association Senate is the final University governance step before consideration by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning;

WHEREAS, the Student Association Senate serves as the elected voice of the Mississippi State University student body and is uniquely positioned to express whether students support continued investment in programs, services, and opportunities that directly enhance campus life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi State University Student Association Senate formally expresses its support for increasing the Student Activity Fee from **\$25.00 per**

semester to \$50.00 per semester, effective **Fall 2027**, in order to provide sustainable funding for initiatives that directly benefit Mississippi State University students.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Association Senate affirms that the additional revenue generated by this increase should continue to be invested in student organizations, leadership development, student wellbeing and success initiatives, campus traditions and programming, graduate student engagement, and University Recreation improvements in accordance with University policies and Board approval.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Association Senate supports modifying applicable restrictions governing the Student Activity Fee to permit Student Activity Fee revenue to be used for student-worker wages when those positions directly support programs, services, activities, or operations eligible for funding through the Student Activity Fee.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that adoption of this resolution shall serve as the official Resolution of Student Support requested by University Administration for inclusion in Mississippi State University's submission to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the President of Mississippi State University, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Provost and Executive Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning as evidence of the Student Association Senate's support for this proposal.