

1
2 **Resolution in Opposition to Allowing UW System Students the Option to Decline to Pay**
3 **Allocable Segregated Fees**
4

5 **Whereas:** In the 2017-2019 Executive Budget, Governor Walker recommended students be given
6 the option to decline to pay allocable segregated fees at the time the student pays tuition;
7

8 **Whereas:** Allocable segregated fees are an integral funding source for a wide variety of services,
9 programs, and facilities on all 26 University of Wisconsin Campuses, that support the mission of the
10 University of Wisconsin System;
11

12 **Whereas:** Without this funding source, many of these necessary student services would no longer
13 be able to be provided, causing a decrease in enrollment, retention, and graduating students on
14 every University of Wisconsin Campus;
15

16 **Whereas:** In accordance with Wisconsin Statute, these funds are allocated through a committee of
17 approved students, representing the entirety of the student body, called the Student University Fee
18 Allocations Committee (SUFAC);
19

20 **Whereas:** Under current law, SUFAC and all other public institution fee allocation committees are
21 required to maintain viewpoint neutrality, as established by US Supreme Court decision
22 “Southworth v. The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System”;
23

24 **Whereas:** Viewpoint Neutrality requires SUFAC to allocate these fees in a neutral manner, meaning
25 they cannot take into consideration the point of view or opinion of each organization, or
26 discriminate against specific organizations due to their viewpoints;
27

28 **Whereas:** If the current system for segregated fees were changed to include an option for students
29 to decline to pay allocable segregated fees, viewpoint neutrality may no longer apply to allocation
30 of these fees;
31

32 **Whereas:** If viewpoint neutrality no longer applied to decisions made, certain opinions or
33 viewpoints would no longer be protected and funding for services or organizations may no longer
34 be provided;
35

36 **Whereas:** To not jeopardize viewpoint neutrality, the current system should remain in place to
37 protect equal funding opportunity;
38

39 **Whereas:** All students should have an equal ability to access services and opportunities provided by
40 segregated fees;
41

42 **Whereas:** If segregated fees were to become an optional cost, Federal Post 9/11 GI Bill and some
43 Financial Aid sources could not be used by any student to pay the allocable segregated fee because
44 these funding sources cannot be used for optional student fees;
45

46 **Whereas:** Without being able to utilize these various funding sources, many students would not
47 have the ability to pay for allocable segregated fees even if they wished to;

48
49 **Whereas:** Many services provided to all students through allocable segregated fees are impractical
50 or impossible to provide solely to those who have paid fees under a system where students have
51 the option to decline to pay;

52
53 **Whereas:** UW-Eau Claire's Student Senate stated that the "[current] system put in place to
54 allocate these allocable segregated fees provides students the resources and opportunities to
55 gain valuable knowledge and experience that will better prepare them for the Wisconsin
56 workforce" and that an 'opt-out' would "would eliminate programs and activities essential to a
57 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire education";

58
59 **Whereas:** the UW-La Crosse Student Association stated that the opt-out will create "major
60 funding losses and budget uncertainties from year to year" and that this "goes against the
61 needed steps to stay fiscally responsible" while also stating that "services and opportunities
62 that would be negatively impacted by this proposal include student bus and safe ride services,
63 varsity athletics, multicultural programs, music programs, theatre, campus radio, student
64 government, and many other student organizations";

65
66 **Whereas:** UW-Madison's ASM has stated that "the transportation budget is one example of
67 where problems may occur [with an 'opt-out']. Sixty-eight percent of students at UW-Madison
68 picked up a bus pass last semester. Students depend on access to transportation on our 936-
69 acre campus, and would struggle to get to classes" if the 'opt-out' were to pass;

70
71 **Whereas:** a UW-Manitowoc student government press release stated that "our small campus
72 would face severe restrictions on programs" such as "an athletic program which has
73 successfully attracted students from as far as Milwaukee [and] a very successful theater that
74 has attracted considerable community support and participation";

75
76 **Whereas:** a UW-Marshfield/Wood County student government press release stated that
77 "student organizations and activities that would be adversely affected by this proposal include
78 Student Ambassadors, The Peer Tutor Club, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, the Art Gallery,
79 Student Government, Student Activities, The Villas Council, The International Club, and any
80 future student organizations" and "departments that would be adversely affected by this
81 proposal include Drama Production, Music Production, the Success Center Tutoring Services,
82 Athletics, and Continuing Education";

83
84 **Whereas:** UW-Milwaukee's Student Association stated that the allocable fees "are allocated to
85 vital campus resources such as the Military and Veterans Resource Center and Transportation
86 Services" and that "UWM serves more veterans than any school in the six-state region. We
87 would be unable to meet their unique needs if we did not do our best to serve them, as they
88 did and continue to do for us" with UWM veterans writing an open letter to the legislature in
89 conjunction with these sentiments;

91 **Whereas:** A UW-River Falls student government press release stated that the ‘opt-out’ would
92 “likely result in the termination of many student oriented programs and services, therefore
93 jeopardizing the success and wellbeing of the nearly six thousand student of UW-River Falls”;
94

95 **Whereas:** UW-Stout’s Student Senate stated that “allocable student fees provide event and
96 activity support for the majority of UW-Stout’s 158 student organizations”, and that “the
97 structural changes suggested in the Executive Budget would cause considerable financial
98 uncertainty and would seriously impact [the] budget model”;
99

100 **Whereas:** UW-Washington County’s student government has stated that “allowing students to
101 ‘opt-out’ of their allocable student segregated fees will not only devastate, but potentially
102 eliminate [programs] that our students utilize on campus”;
103

104 **Whereas:** UW-Waukesha’s Student Association states that “we are honored to help fund
105 different student services such as Veteran’s Organization, theatre, athletics, Diversity and Pre-
106 College Center, and over thirty clubs and organizations” and that an ‘opt-out’ would create a
107 situation where “the continuation of beneficial services would be affected and possibly be cut
108 altogether”;
109

110 **Whereas:** UW-Whitewater’s committee responsible for allocating the fees has stated that
111 “these fees are an absolute necessity to not only our campus, but to all other UW campuses in
112 the state, and it would be doing a disservice to students to allow them to opt out of paying
113 them”, as well as the fact that the fees “provide a home for veteran students on campus, allow
114 students with disabilities to do things they love, create important leadership opportunities
115 where students can grow as individuals” among many other opportunities;
116

117 **Therefore be it resolved:** The University of Wisconsin System Student Representatives strongly
118 opposes the recommendation to allow UW System Students to have the option to decline to pay
119 allocable segregated fees;
120

121 **Therefore be it further resolved:** The University of Wisconsin System Student Representatives
122 requests the members of the Joint Committee on Finance to remove this recommendation from the
123 final budget proposal;
124

125 **Therefore be it further resolved:** The University of Wisconsin System Student Representatives
126 requests all members of the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly to oppose any provision allowing
127 students the option to pay allocable segregated fees and removing this section from the final
128 budget before passage;
129

130 **Therefore be it finally resolved:** Upon approval, this resolution shall be forwarded on to Wisconsin
131 Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance, Senate Chief Clerk Jeff Renk,
132 Assembly Chief Clerk Patrick Fuller, University of Wisconsin System State Relations Director Jeff
133 Buhrandt, University of Wisconsin System State Relations Director Jeff Schoenfeldt, University of
134 Wisconsin System President Ray Cross, and the Chancellors of all 14 UW System Institutions.

PASSAGE: Passed by voice vote 4/1/2017 at UW-La Crosse