

Senate Bill No.: SB-2014-15-001

Date: October 3, 2014

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Referred to: External Affairs Committee

Committee Rec: **Approved on 10/14/2014 (5-0-0)**

Senate Action: **Approved on 10/20/2014 (13-0-5)**

Title: **Recognition and Support of the Student Involvement and Representation Fund (SIRF)**

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. (A.S.) is the official voice of over 40,000 students at California State University Northridge; and
2. WHEREAS: A.S. is the primary advocate for students at CSUN and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning focused campus environment; and
3. WHEREAS: In accomplishing its mission, A.S has the responsibility to inform students about statewide policies proposing any changes to student fees; and
4. WHEREAS: The California State Student Association (CSSA) is the recognized statewide student organization for the 446,000 California State University (CSU) students; and
5. WHEREAS: CSSA is “one of approximately 15 statewide student associations nationwide and was established by student leaders in 1958 to represent all students of the CSU system and advocate for them on issues of higher education pertaining to access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.”¹
6. WHEREAS: Currently, CSSA is dependent on a voluntary portion of membership fees collected by the 23 CSU campus student associations and annual funding augmentation from the CSU Chancellor’s Office in order to fund the CSSA and its student engagement activities; and

¹ <http://www.csustudents.org/index.php/who-we-are/>

7. WHEREAS: Membership Fees of each CSU campus is currently determined by the Office of the Chancellor from the previous Fall term;² and
8. WHEREAS: The amount of dues assessed per participating campus is calculated by multiplying the current dues rate by the campus enrollment, minus fee waivers and other non-AS fee-paying students;³ and
9. WHEREAS: CSUN A.S. currently pays \$25,284.60 annually on behalf of the over 40,000 students on campus; and
10. WHEREAS: According to the presentation made to the CSU Board of Trustees in March of 2014, current monetary levels for CSSA is hindering student participation across the state and nationally due to limited and inconsistent funding; and
11. WHEREAS: CSSA is proposing a change in their current funding model by implementing the Student Involvement and Representation Fund (SIRF); and
12. WHEREAS: The SIRF would be a \$2 voluntary fee per student and be assessed each fall and spring which could bring CSSA nearly \$900,000 in additional funding each semester; and
13. WHEREAS: Implementation of SIRF could result in cost savings for the CSU system as well as CSUN A.S. moving forward; and
14. WHEREAS: The SIRF would allow CSSA to ensure increased student engagement in university governance including programs such as the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU system wide committees, task forces, and workgroups; student representation to policy makers, student leadership development opportunities and other education and training programs;⁴ and therefore let it be

² http://www.csustudents.org/wp-content/uploads/public-resources/pdf/Membership-Dues-Policy_revised-01-14.pdf

³ http://www.csustudents.org/wp-content/uploads/public-resources/pdf/Membership-Dues-Policy_revised-01-14.pdf

⁴ <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/mar14/Finance.pdf>

15. WHEREAS: CSUN A.S. has taken extensive measures to inform its student population about SIRF by hosting educational forums and placing the following question on the 2014 A.S. Elections Survey; and “The California State Student Association (CSSA) is the official voice of the 446,000 students in the CSU system. CSSA has proposed the Student Involvement and Representation Fund (\$2 per semester), which would provide the funds for better student representation and advocacy efforts on the statewide and federal level. The CSUN A.S. currently pays on your behalf approximately \$0.65 per student for this purpose. This fee is proposed as a voluntary fee, in which students could opt out. Would you be in support of this voluntary fee?” and
16. WHEREAS: 56% of the total CSUN student voters who participated in the 2014 Elections Survey voted in favor of implementing SIRF; therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. strongly believes in the value of the California State Students Association and believes CSSA should have the revenue that supports meaningful representation of 446,000 CSU students; and let it be further
2. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. is in full support of the Student Involvement Representation Fund (SIRF); and let it be further
3. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. will continue to uphold its mission by educating students about SIRF through an additional promotional video, infographic, and organizing tabling events; and let it be further
4. RESOLVED: That members of the A.S. Senate and student body attend the CSU Board of Trustees meeting in which SIRF will be presented as an action items in order to present this resolution and speak in support of SIRF; and let it be finally
5. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to the following:
- Dr. Timothy White, Chancellor, California State Universities (CSU)
 - Dr. Dianne Harrison, President, CSUN
 - CSU Board of Trustees
 - All CSU Campus Presidents
 - All CSU Campus Student Body Presidents

ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS



-
- Miles Nevin, Executive Director, CSSA
 - Meredith Turner, Assistant Executive Director and Chief Governmental Officer, CSSA
 - Long Beach Press Telegram
 - Daily News
 - CSUN Today
 - The Sundial

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