GA 103

This Resolution Shall Henceforth Be Known As the “Support in the increase of the Transportation Fee”

PURPOSE

To support the increase of the University of Texas at San Antonio’s Transportation Fee in 2016.

WHEREAS: Article 3, §2C of the University of Texas at San Antonio Student Government Association Constitution reads “[The Duties and Responsibilities of the General Assembly shall be] to review, discuss, consider, and take any necessary action through legislation on all issues which concern the campus or students.”

WHEREAS: The Transportation Fee was first established in 2008 and has not increased since;

and

WHEREAS: The current fee does not reflect the U.S. inflation rate since 2008; and

WHEREAS: The need of more shuttles is evident as the number of apartment and student housing complexes around and within the University have tremendously increased; and

WHEREAS: The number of shuttle riders has increased from 1,502,960 the academic school year of 2008-2009 to 2,030,963 the academic school year of 2014-2015; and

WHEREAS: The expense cost has increased from $1,060,000 in 2008 to $2,264,611 in 2015; and

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1 http://www.utsa.edu/financialaffairs/ tuitionfees/committee/agendas.html “Transportation Fee” Presentation 11/04/2015

2 Source: BAS Transportation Expenditures
WHEREAS: The annual operating costs to maintain UTSA’s shuttle system exceed $550,000 per fiscal year to include fuel, repair and maintenance, and operating expenses of transportation buses\(^3\); and

WHEREAS: In order for UTSA to become more accessible to students with disabilities, it is needed to upgrade the current shuttles to a more transit, inward-facing style; and

WHEREAS: Most UTSA shuttle drivers are full-time employees with benefits; and

WHEREAS: 1,200 students were polled in 2011 whether or not they would like to increase the fee, and 65% were in favor of\(^4\); and

WHEREAS: UTSA Shuttle system helps to keep the costs of education low because garage and parking permits are more of a financial burden on some students; and

WHEREAS: Other Texas Universities’ transportation fees ranges from $95 (Texas State)\(^5\) to $175 (Texas A&M); and

WHEREAS: Increasing the Transportation fee would create jobs by adding student drivers\(^6\); and

WHEREAS: By increasing the fee it would increase the shuttle frequency, add bus trackers, expand shuttle services to additional apartment complexes, allow for the return of the shopping shuttle, allow for the shuttles to be self-funded, improve the life cycle fleet replacement from 19 years to 13 years; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The University of Texas at San Antonio Student Government Association supports the increase of the transportation fee; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Mr. Paul L. Foster, Chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents; Dr. Ricardo Romo, President of the University of Texas at San Antonio; Mr. Sam Gonzales, Vice-President of Student Affairs of the University of Texas at San Antonio; Ms. Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Vice-President of Business Affairs; and Clay Haverland, the Director of Business Auxiliary Services, with this clause being omitted from the resolution.

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\(^3\) Source: BAS

\(^4\) [http://goo.gl/Ti2dtq](http://goo.gl/Ti2dtq)

\(^5\) [http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/billing/rates-ug.html](http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/billing/rates-ug.html)

\(^6\) Source: Personal Communication between Director of Business Auxiliary Services Clay Haverland and Speaker of the Senate Jeff Schilder
Ileana Gonzalez
President of Student Government Association
The University of Texas at San Antonio