

Resolution Regarding Proposed California State Student Association (CSSA) System Wide Fee known as the Student Involvement and Representation Fee (SIRF)

Sponsored by: President Taylor Herren, Director of Legislative Affairs Darion Johnston

Date Submitted: 9-23-14

Date Approved: 10-7-14

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of California State University, Chico is the recognized voice of more than 16,000 students; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of California State University, Chico recognizes the ability of CSSA to lobby for the needs of the 447,000 CSU students in the California legislature and provide opportunities for student leaders from all 23 campuses to collectively serve these students; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of California State University, Chico acknowledges CSSA's need for stable funding and that additional funding could provide opportunities for the growth of the organization by expanding federal advocacy efforts and providing compensation for executive officers; and

WHEREAS, CSSA purports that approximately ninety percent of students who are given the ability to opt out of a campus fee do not do so; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of California State University, Chico's current Strategic Plan ensures accountability, especially as it relates to student finances and fees; and

WHEREAS, the primary mode of accountability as articulated by CSSA in relation to the Student Involvement and Representation Fee (SIRF) relies on an individual student being informed enough about CSSA to make the decision to opt out of paying the fee; and

WHEREAS, the current CSSA funding model allows each Associated Students organization to commit to funding CSSA as long as the AS Board of Directors feel the organization operates with integrity and in the best interest of Chico State students; the proposed funding model would not allow campuses to control the funding allocation; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of California State University, Chico clearly expressed concerns in a resolution passed in January 2014 that SIRF would be the only optional fee in the CSU and would set a precedent that could jeopardize existing or future student fees; and

WHEREAS, this concern has materialized in A.B. 2736, which recently passed in California granting the CSU Board of Trustees an absolute power to create additional voluntary fees for CSU students without consultation; and

WHEREAS, this legislation was supported by CSSA without being agendized, discussed or passed by the CSSA Board of Directors; and

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WHEREAS, SIRF is projected to increase the 2014-2015 annual budget of CSSA from \$648,780 to approximately \$1.6 million; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico will not support a system wide, optional fee that does not adequately address the aforementioned concerns with the following accountability measures; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that the CSSA Executive Officers and the Staff respect and adhere to recommendations made by its own Finance Ad Hoc Committee; Communication Ad Hoc Committee; and Rules, Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee; and

RESOLVED, should the proposed fee be adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees, the 23 associated student body organizations not be required to pay additional dues to have a representative on the CSSA Board of Directors; and

RESOLVED, that if this proposed fee is adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees, CSSA should no longer receive financial support from the Chancellor's Office to ensure it is an independent organization; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that the Finance Ad Hoc Committee make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, Chancellor's Office, CSSA Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Staff regarding a proposed annual operating budget based on the projected amount of student dollars aggregated through SIRF; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that the Rules, Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, Chancellor's Office, CSSA Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Staff regarding revisions to the Memorandums of Understanding that exist between each Associated Students organization and CSSA as well as with the Chancellor's Office and CSSA; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that the Rules, Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee make recommendations to the CSSA Board of Directors regarding CSSA officer compensation in order to increase the level of accountability for these officers through a formal review process; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that the Rules, Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee make revisions to policies regarding the review and recall process of CSSA officers and other issues associated with officer duties and responsibilities; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that the Rules, Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee make any necessary revisions to strengthen and ensure accountability in the CSSA Executive Director performance evaluation process; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that the CSSA Board of Directors thoroughly discuss an opt-in fee funding model as a possible way to increase accountability and reactivity to the needs of all CSU students; and

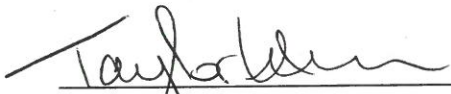
RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests the CSSA Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of the Rules, Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee, propose to the CSU Board of Trustees the possibilities of using campus elections as a means for collective student bodies to elect or decline the payment of the fee and the procedures regarding acceptable reasons for an Associated Students organization to remove campus-wide support for the system wide fee; and

RESOLVED, that if this proposed fee is directly collected from each CSU student instead of each campus' student body organization, CSSA needs to directly and visibly serve individual students; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico requests that CSSA cannot accumulate a reserve in excess of 10% of the annual operating budget; and furthermore, if the entire budget is not expended, CSSA will forgo increasing the student representation fee as it relates to the percentage of inflation in the Higher Education Price Index; and

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of California State University, Chico request that CSSA reimburse the campus cost to administer the fee with projected revenue from the proposed fee; and

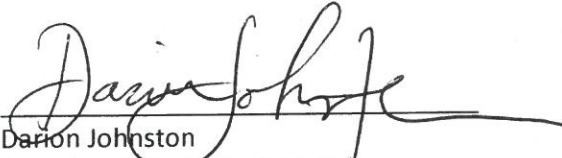
RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed to all CSU Chico students, CSSA Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Staff, the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor, Campus Presidents, Vice Presidents for Student Affairs, Vice Presidents for Business and Finance and Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs and Relevant Auxiliaries.



Taylor Herren
Associated Students, CSU, Chico
President and Chair, Board of Directors

10-8-14

Date



Darion Johnston
Associated Students, CSU, Chico
Director of Legislative Affairs

Date

10/8/14

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