ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

BILL NO. 55-37

INTRODUCED BY: HAWKINS  SECONDED BY: HORNE

A RESOLUTION TO: Oppose the Current Proposed Implementation of Flat Rate Tuition.

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, On June 22nd, 2018, the MSU Board of Trustees approved a 2-year university budget effectively implementing a flat rate tuition structure for undergraduate students, and

WHEREAS, In this model, undergraduate students taking between 12 and 18 credits would all pay the same flat rate for tuition, which was set at the current per-credit rate for taking 15 credits, and

WHEREAS, In the context of a per-credit rate tuition freeze and dropping out of state and international student enrollment, MSU is slated to bring in an additional $5 million in tuition revenue in the 2019-2020 academic year compared to the 2018-2019 year, at least partially due to the implementation of flat rate tuition, and

WHEREAS, Although flat rate tuition is widely implemented at universities similar to MSU, this shift was undertaken without any university community input, and before any thorough examination of its overall effects on student success, both academic and financial, and

WHEREAS, Subsequent exploration within university flat rate tuition work groups has yielded the discovery that, for numerous reasons, this shift significantly disadvantages numerous student populations, including upperclassmen that planned their degrees with a per-credit tuition model in mind and have fewer than 15 credits left in their final semesters,

WHEREAS, A categorical flat rate tuition waiver was proposed for upperclassmen graduating through Spring 2021 by the workgroup focusing on the impact on students, but this has been met with resistance by administration due to an increased amount of waivers lowering the amount of tuition revenue
the university takes in, even though these waivers would ensure that students are paying only for credit hours that they are taking, and

WHEREAS, The current proposed implementation has the potential to disadvantage students financially who took higher credit amounts earlier in their tenure at MSU and would be forced to pay higher tuition costs based on a change in how MSU handles tuition in which they had no say, no opportunity to provide feedback, and with minimal notice with which they could alter their planned courses to account for this, and

WHEREAS, A main benefit of a flat rate tuition structure is the ability of undergraduates to take classes that they are passionate about or interested in without a greater extent of added credit cost, yet research by the University flat rate tuition workgroups suggests that MSU does not currently have the course infrastructure to support this, thus restricting the ability of upperclassmen to access the positive effects of flat rate tuition while still subjecting them to the financial consequences, be it now

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University call for flat rate tuition waivers to be granted to students graduating through the spring semester 2021 that need to take between 12 and 14 credits per semester in order to graduate, and be it further

RESOLVED, In the case that the above recommendation is not adopted, the Associated Students of Michigan State University call on MSU administration to halt the implementation of any change in tuition structure until sufficient research can be conducted and input from those affected by the proposed change is collected.

INTRODUCED ON January 10, 2019

REFERRED TO Academic COMMITTEE ON 1/10/19

COMMITTEE ACTION X voice majority 1/10/19
PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE

FINAL ACTION TAKEN  X voice majority 1/17/19
PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE

President

VPIA