

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GS-08

SENATE BILL NO. GS08-40

AS INTRODUCED

A Senate resolution urging the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to limit any increase in tuition and fees to no more than nine percent.

Whereas: The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have had control over tuition and fees at the state's public institutions of higher education since 2003 when House Bill 1748 removed the resident tuition cap of seven percent and allowed the State Regents to set tuition and fees without specific authorization from the State Legislature; and,

Whereas: Since the State Regents have had control, resident tuition and fees at the University of Oklahoma have increased by 91.5% over the past five years while the state's per capita personal income has risen by only 32.1% during the same period; and,

Whereas: There is no real correlation between the adequacy of state appropriations and increases in tuition and fees – as, over the past five years, state appropriations to higher education have increased by 29.1% while total state appropriations have increased by only 26.3% and the state's consumer price index has risen by only 15.9%; and,

Whereas: Recently, the University of Oklahoma has suggested that a double digit percentage increase in tuition and fees is required to meet rising college costs; and,

Whereas: Extensive educational research, such as the scientific studies conducted by Heller in 1997, by Leslie & Brinkman in 1988, and by Jackson & Weathersby in 1975, have shown that such dramatic increases have a significant and measurable impact – affecting three decisions students make: (1) whether to enroll in college (access); (2) what institution to attend (choice); and (3) whether to continue their enrollment (persistence); and,

Whereas: The impact of such dramatic increases in tuition and fees most strongly affects minorities and low income students.

Now, therefore, let it be resolved that:

Section 1: The Graduate Student Senate urges the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to limit any increase in tuition and fees to no more than nine percent.

Section 2: Copies of this resolution shall be sent to:

The Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
The Honorable President of the University of Oklahoma, David Boren

Author(s): Nicholas Harrison

Submitted on a Motion by: Sen. Adkins, seconded by Sen. Goepfert

Action taken by Senate: Passed by Consent

Verified by Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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