



BROWN



Student Activities Fee Resolution

Sponsored by: Brady Wyrzten '11

Co-Sponsored by:

1. WHEREAS in October 2008 the Undergraduate Council of Students (UCS) approved a proposal requesting a \$8 Student Activities Fee increase for the 2009-2010 year;¹ and
2. WHEREAS the current Student Activities Fee is \$170 per academic year;² and
3. WHEREAS the overall number of Category II groups, each receiving \$200 per semester in baseline funding, has increased from 52 in Fall, 2008 to 56 in Fall, 2009, accounting for a \$1600 increase in costs;³ and
4. WHEREAS the overall number of Category III groups, each receiving \$200 per semester in baseline funding and additional budgeting from the Undergraduate Finance Board (UFB), has increased from 137 in Fall, 2008⁴ to 143 in Fall, 2009, accounting for at least a \$2400 increase in costs; and
5. WHEREAS each category III group received, on average, \$5,081.60 in Spring, 2008 budgeting,⁵ accounting for an expected \$30,489.60 increase in UFB funding; and
6. WHEREAS an increase in the number of student groups means each group has less funding available from the Student Activities Fund; and
7. WHEREAS the Department of Public Safety was paid for 1,032 hours by student groups in the 2008-2009 year, and the hourly detail rates charged for a Public Safety Officer increased to \$48.50 per hour from \$47.00 per hour⁶, accounting for an expected \$1,548.00 increase in costs; and
8. WHEREAS student groups paid \$166,108.84 to the Department of Facilities in the 2008-2009 year, and costs for event services and staffing provided by the Department of Facilities and related contractors increase approximately 5% per year,⁷ accounting for an expected \$8,305.44 increase in costs; and
9. WHEREAS UFB currently budgets money for over ten cultural weeks and months at a cost of \$75,000, even though they are not Category III groups approved by UCS, and the Third World Center does not have the funds

¹ UCS Proposal for increased Student Activities Fee 09-10

² http://brown.edu/Administration/Financial_Services/Bursar/Information/tuition_fee.html

³ Student Activities Office Database October 25 Archive

⁴ Student Activities Office Database October 25 Archive

⁵ Undergraduate Finance Board Minutes, 2008

⁶ Student Activities Office Internal Financial Records, Obtained October 2009

⁷ Student Activities Office Internal Financial Records, Obtained October 2009

to support these events; and

10. WHEREAS groups who do not receive sufficient funding from the Student Activities Fund often turn toward dues and out-of-pocket costs from their members; and
 11. WHEREAS UCS has the responsibility to advocate on behalf of the student body for the maintenance of a high level of student programming, and to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to participate in student programming; and
 12. WHEREAS adequate funding for student organizations would minimize group pressures to fundraise in ways that might compete with other fundraising priorities of the University and enable departments to use additional funding resources to support their priorities; and
 13. WHEREAS UCS finds it consistent with Brown University's mission statement that UFB should be able to fund above and beyond the minimum demands of student groups, both to satisfy current group needs and to encourage the formation of additional groups; and
 14. WHEREAS accessible student funding would empower students to maintain their ability to bring pertinent and impressive speakers, groups and other community events to campus, and to create groups that would more thoroughly represent the student body's interests; and
 15. WHEREAS UCS understands the current financial crisis, and is asking for only a raise to cover the increased costs imposed on student groups; and
 16. WHEREAS the projected increase in both the number of student groups and costs, will once again challenge UFB's ability to fulfill its mission as the primary source of funding; and
 17. WHEREAS the total expected increase in costs for Student Activities has been shown to be \$44,343.04.
1. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Council of Students requests an increase of \$8 in the Student Activities Fee for the 2009-2010 Academic Year, which would raise the Student Activities Fee to \$178 per year, which is a total increase of approximately \$46,985; and
 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Council of Students requests that the student members of the University Resources Committee and Vice President for Campus Life, Margaret Klawunn, advocate for this increase on our behalf; and
 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the University Resources Committee does not fully fund this request, that the Undergraduate Council of Students requests a written explanation within four weeks of its denial.