WHEREAS, the students are given the primary responsibility and right to manage and regulate their fees in accordance to state statute 36.09(5) (Artifact III).

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility means that students have the obligation and authority to initiate policies concerning student life, services, and interests, and to review existing and proposed policies in these areas before they are amended or adopted by the other constituencies of the university. Where approval of such policies rests with the faculty or administration, the basis for changing or denying the student recommendations shall be substantial and shall be communicated to the recommending student agency in a timely manner (Artifact IV).

WHEREAS, students were not given an opportunity to review and offer advice upon the budget of each program and activity that is funded primarily with non-allocable segregated university fees (SUF) (Artifact I). As the fee for the “Student Union Capital Project” started in FY16 at $13/semester, increasing to $25/semester in FY17, and $75/semester in FY18 and thereafter. This was done at the purview of the Chancellor without SA approval or discussion (Artifact XIII).

WHEREAS, any proposed major remodeling or major new construction project as defined by section 20.924(1)(a) Wisconsin Statutes that will increase the non-allocable portion of the segregated university fee (SUF) on any campus shall be reviewed by the Chancellor with appropriate student representation (Artifact II).

WHEREAS, no end date was set for the non-allocable “Student Union Capital Project” fee and was created at a rate of $13/semester (Artifact V).

WHEREAS, the annual, part-time and/or full-time student segregated fee, including the Union segregated fee ($318.10/year) along with the “Student Union Capital Project” fee ($150/year), amounts to $468.10/year.

WHEREAS, the original piece of legislation was signed with zero-based budgeting principles in mind. Originally taking $10.50 from the existing “Athletics Capital Project” of $25/semester, reducing the “Athletics Capital Project” to $14.50/semester and creating the “Student Union Capital Project” to be $13/semester (Artifact VI), thus increasing the overall segregated fee between these two capital projects by $2.50/semester. Along with proof in a letter, signed by Mike Sportiello (former SA President)
and Ryan Sorenson (former Treasurer and SUFAC Chair), stating that the reduction of the Athletics Capital Project was to “make room for a Student Union Capital Project Fund without significantly raising segregated fees” (Artifact VIII).

WHEREAS, we believe the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee administration misled the Student Association regarding the outcomes of the original legislation and memorandums.

WHEREAS, we believe the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee administration misinformed the UW Board of Regents by stating, “Students Approved increase to be used for existing maintenance or a new Union if one is approved” (Artifact XV). Students never approved of the increases stated in the approved UW Regent fiscal year budgets. The evidence includes: no Legislation or memorandums, neither inclusion nor disclosure in the SFC omnibuses.

WHEREAS, a referendum in 2018 to establish an increased fee to build a new union was denied by the student body. This referendum lost with a support of only 35% of the student body (18,460 votes).

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee is continually receiving gifts (Artifact XI & XII) and pursuing grants (Artifact X) over hundreds of millions of dollars, that could be used to pay for a new or improved student union (Artifact IX).

WHEREAS, the “Made in Milwaukee, Shaping the World” campaign fails to identify the Student Union as a need for gifts (Artifact XIV). The campaign states “The campaign’s key pillars – students, research, and engagement...” (Artifact XV), and Union building serves as the hub for student engagement on campus.

WHEREAS, it is continuously falling on students of University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, an access institution, to provide funding for projects that the university is not willing to prioritize themselves.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; the Student Association no longer provides support for the “Student Union Capital Project” fee continuing past fiscal year 2019 (FY19).

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Student Association officially condemns the increases to the fee for the “Student Union Capital Project,” and in particular, the lack of Student Association involvement in reviewing the policy before it was amended (Artifact IV).

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Student Association, elected by the student body, officially requests the end of the “Student Union Capital Project” fee as of fiscal year 2020 (FY20).

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Student Association suggests the use of funds received during the “record breaking year of fundraising” (Artifact XII) be used for improvements and/or reconstruction of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Union. Other possible sources of funding would include making a future fund and/or grant initiative (Artifact X). Ultimately, terminating the burden on the student body.
THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Union, the office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the office of the Chancellor, the office of the Attorney General of Wisconsin, the office of the Governor of Wisconsin, the UW Board of Regents, and the impacted University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee students.

Alyssa Molinski
Student Association President

2/17/2019
Date

AYE 9
NAY 6

Legislative History

February 10th, 2019 – Passed by the Student Association Senate.