



STUDENT ASSOCIATION
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MILWAUKEE

-----SB1819-XXX-----

Panther Union Reinvestment (PUR) Project Resolution

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

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

9 **WHEREAS**, students should be given an opportunity to review and offer advice upon the budget of each
10 program and activity that is funded primarily with non-allocable segregated university fees (SUF)
11 (Artifact I).

12 **WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee is an access institution and any segregated fee
13 increases should be examined carefully with extensive deliberation.

14 **WHEREAS**, “80 percent of working professionals with student loan debt said it is a source of ‘significant’
15 or ‘very significant’ stress” (CNBC – Dickler).

16 **WHEREAS**, “a 2013 study published in *Anxiety, Coping and Stress*, found that ‘those with greater
17 financial strain perceived more stress, had more symptoms of depression, anxiety, and ill-health.’ And
18 significant or growing debt, can be a major cause of overall financial stress” (The Atlantic – White).

19 **WHEREAS**, the Institute of Education Sciences (ed.gov) reported that, “Results indicate, among other
20 findings, that financial stress contributes to an increased likelihood of discontinuing college” (ed.gov).

21 **WHEREAS**, “Northwestern University published a 2013 study, which found that higher levels of relative
22 debt—that’s relative to household assets—were particularly problematic, causing subjects to report
23 higher levels of stress, depression, and poorer self-reported general health. Feelings of significant
24 indebtedness also raised diastolic blood pressure, which can increase the risk of hypertension and
25 stroke” (The Atlantic – White).

26 **WHEREAS**, the Student Union segregated fee and/or other capital projects should be reduced to
27 mitigate and/or lessen the burden on students that the new Panther Union Reinvestment (PUR) Project
28 fee would create.

29 **WHEREAS**, \$75/semester fee generates \$3.028 million dollars annually, which would generate
30 approximately \$60 million dollars over a 20-year period.

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

35 **WHEREAS**, a referendum in 2018 to establish an increased fee, from \$75 to \$199, to build a new union
36 was denied by the student body. This referendum lost with a support of only 35% of the student body
37 (18,460 votes).

38 **WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee administration have agreed to explore fundable
39 ideas for the reinvestment project.

40 **WHEREAS**, the Student Association Senate passed legislation (SB1819-022) that no longer provided
41 support for the “Student Union Capital Project” fee.

42 **WHEREAS**, a reason for not trying to increase operating revenue, by charging Restaurant Operations a
43 greater amount to use the Union space, is that Restaurant Operations is operating primarily at a deficit
44 (Artifact XII). Moreover, the deficit is being subsidized by the residential student fees (meal plans).

45 **WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee is continually receiving gifts (Artifact VII & VIII) and
46 pursuing grants (Artifact VI) over hundreds of millions of dollars that could be used to pay for a new or
47 improved student union (Artifact V).

48 **WHEREAS**, Administration and SFC have advised on the stipulations and legislation.

49 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**; the Student Association adopts the Panther Union Reinvestment (PUR)
50 capital project fee, with the expectation that all recommendation to other segregated fees and
51 stipulations to the capital project fee will be met.

52 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**; in an effort to reduce the debt on students, starting in fiscal
53 year 2021 (FY21), the Student Association recommends that the total segregated fees allocation shall be
54 froze for a period of three fiscal years (FY21-FY23). The Student Association represents the students of
55 the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, which means the continued growing financial, emotional, and
56 health crisis with college students must be consider paramount in any decision to increase segregated
57 fees (Artifact XI).

58 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**; the stipulations that must be met for the Panther Union
59 Reinvestment (PUR) project to receive support from the student body includes:

- 60
- The PUR Project fee shall begin in fiscal year 2020 (FY20) at a rate of \$75/semester.

- 61 • The PUR project fee shall never exceed \$75/semester.
62 • The PUR project leaders shall give an update on progress of the project to the entire
63 Student Association Senate annually in the Fall.
64 • If bonding is received from the state, the PUR Project fee may not continue for more
65 than 20 fiscal years past the bonds issuing year.
66 • The PUR Project fee shall only provide 94% of the total project cost. Union Operating
67 revenue and donations/gifts/grants shall cover the other 6% which is approximately \$4
68 million dollars (Artifact X).
69 • Changes to these stipulations must abide by the policy set forth in Regent Document
70 [30-5], and Regent Document [30-3], where the primary responsibility of SFC is to
71 review amendments to the fee stipulations. Furthermore “the basis for changing or
72 denying the students recommendation shall be substantial.”
73 • Any PUR Project committee and/or Union project committee must have, at a minimum,
74 33% student representation.

75 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** the Student Association suggests that increasing the Union
76 operating revenue be an important piece in the reconstruction and/or renovation process.

77 **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED;** this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the University
78 of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Union, the office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the office of
79 the Chancellor, the UW Board of Regents, and the impacted University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
80 students.

Alyssa Molinski
Student Association President

Date

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Legislative History

March 6th, 2019 – Introduced by Senator Paltz. Cosponsored by Senator Malek, Senator Kinnard, Senator Schindler, Senator Kolhe, Senator Rosenthal, Senator Eaton, and Senator Moreno-Islas.