



Resolution No. 1314-06

A Resolution to Urge University of Missouri Colleges to Formally Consult Students  
Prior to Enacting Changes to College-Level Fees

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

- WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences has recently assessed a \$25/credit hour fee; and
- WHEREAS, the College of Engineering has recently assessed an “Excellence fee” at \$30/credit hour for in-state students and at \$70/credit hour for out-of-state students; and
- WHEREAS, graduate and professional students were not consulted in any meaningful way prior to the recently-enacted changes in college-level fees for A&S students and for Engineering students; and
- WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of graduate and professional students are out-of-state students, meaning that the overwhelming majority of graduate students in the College of Engineering will be assessed at the \$70/credit hour fee level; and
- WHEREAS, baseline university-wide fees for full-time (9 credit hours per semester) graduate and professional students are approximately \$500 per semester; and
- WHEREAS, the new A&S fee, at \$225 per semester for full-time graduate and professional students, represents a 45% increase in total fees for such students; and
- WHEREAS, the new Engineering fee, at \$630 per semester for full-time graduate and professional students, represents a 126% increase in total fees for such students; and
- WHEREAS, the baseline stipend for graduate and professional students is \$11,000 per year, one of the lowest in the AAU; and
- WHEREAS, the new College of A&S fee increases the total burden of student fees for full-time graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences from 9% to 13% of the baseline stipend; and

WHEREAS, the new College of Engineering fee increases the total burden of student fees for full-time out-of-state graduate students in the College of Engineering from 9% to 20.5 % of the baseline stipend; and

WHEREAS, student fees ought not be used as substitutes for tuition increases; and

WHEREAS, proposed changes to university-wide fees must be approved by the Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC); and

WHEREAS, the SFRC is the mechanism that ensures that graduate and professional students are meaningfully consulted prior to the enacting of changes in university-wide fees; and

WHEREAS, it is right and proper that graduate and professional students be meaningfully consulted prior to the enacting of changes in student fees; and

WHEREAS, increases in college-level fees contribute in the same manner that increases in university-level fees contribute to the total student fees burden on graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS, increasing college-level fees without first meaningfully consulting graduate and professional students represent a violation of the spirit of the mission of the SFRC and a violation of what is right and proper;

be it

RESOLVED, by majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered that the Graduate Professional Council takes a uniform stance regarding our disappointment with the manner in which the herein mentioned new fees were instituted and our disapproval of the failure to consult graduate and professional students prior to instituting said fees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Professional Council strongly encourages the colleges at the University of Missouri to develop a committee that functions analogously to the SFRC through which graduate and professional students are meaningfully consulted before changes are made to student fees and that the committee be charged with guaranteeing the proper execution of the appended process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Professional Council strongly encourages the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri codify the existence of this proposed committee in the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri.

SUBMITTED,

Mr. E. Alexander Howe  
Treasurer of GPC

**Process for engaging and consulting students in regard to changes to College level academic fees**

- A college seeking to increase existing academic fees or institute new fees **MUST** solicit feedback from its students.
- The college **MUST** host a college-wide open forum to discuss the fee changes and solicit student feedback.
- The open forum **MUST** be dedicated, solely, to the discussion of the proposed fee changes.
- Items that should be addressed in the college-wide forum should include, but are not limited to
  - Why the fee changes are necessary
  - How the fee level was determined
  - Specific plans for how the fees will be used
- Students should be given 2-4 weeks notice of the open forum, via a college-wide mass email. Other forms of notification in addition to the mass email are encouraged.
- The open forum should be held during the work week at a time and in a location that is accessible by the majority of students in the college.
- A summary of the open forum should be distributed to students in the college via email no later than two weeks after the forum.
- Notes from the forum should also be sent to the MU Chancellor and Provost and submitted with the fee request to the University of Missouri Board of Curators.