First Reading: March 31, 2015

Second Reading: April 7, 2015

Pass: Yes

Other:

Bill 6-15-S Bill to Allocate SGA Discretionary Funding to Expand the WKU Vineyard and Viticulture Class Facilities.

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate $1200.00 from discretionary legislative funding to the Agriculture Department in order to purchase vineyard equipment to better enhance the quality of the facility and majors therein.

WHEREAS: The Agriculture Department at WKU has laid excellent groundwork in constructing new classes relating to the production of grapes and wine, including an introduction to viticulture class, summer vineyard operations and an advance viticulture class, and wine fundamentals class, and

WHEREAS:  In the past the viticulture classes on the WKU farm has had as many as thirty students from diverse majors, showing that this interest is not only from students of agriculture, and

WHEREAS: The Agriculture Department has had several students involved with internships in the wine and grape industries directly as a result of these classes, showing that they are a stepping stone into a career path for WKU students, and

WHEREAS:  In these winemaking courses there is a wide range of student ages from young to old that want to learn about grapes and wine showing that this major can attract interest from both traditional and non-traditional students, and

WHEREAS:   Dr. Ed Stevens of the WKU Chemistry Department and viticulture technician Ryan Phelps have already started making wine this past year for research purposes only and hope to teach an enology course this fall directly pertaining to the science of winemaking, and

WHEREAS:  In the near future both Mr. Phelps and Dr. Stevens would like to offer a viticulture/enology minor or certificate through the Ag and Chemistry departments, showing that this is a growing field of interest at WKU and has the ability to attract new students to enroll at WKU, and

WHEREAS: The $1200.00 of SGA discretionary funding would still leave $4,961.00 residual in the account for the remaining six weeks of the semester basing off the current state of the budget as was reported in the last meeting of April 7 , and

WHEREAS: The Agriculture Department has received no additional funding from the University due to budget cuts and this would be an incredible show of support to new majors and fields on campus for WKU students to enroll and take part ,

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University support the allocation of $1,200.00 to the Agriculture Department for use in purchasing one half-ton lidded picking bin and one 30-gallon fermentation tank with airlocks and fittings at a cost of $400.00 and $800.00 respectively.

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SPONSOR: Campus Improvements

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