

First Reading: February 20th, 2018

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Bill 8-18-S. Funding for the First-Generation Scholarship

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to allocate \$1,200 to create the First-Generation Scholarship, a scholarship fund for full-time students whose parents did not achieve a bachelor's degree and who have significant financial need.

WHEREAS: First-generation college students have significant challenges to successfully achieving a degree not faced by many other students including lack of financial resources and guidance, and

WHEREAS: A first-generation college student is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as a student from a family where neither parent holds a bachelor's degree, and

WHEREAS: This scholarship seeks to help these students access the opportunity to get an education, and

WHEREAS: A similar endowment scholarship to promote diversity through aiding first-generation college students financially and through a mentoring program is in the process of being created through the College Heights Foundation, but the endowment has not received the necessary amount of funds, is looking for additional donors, and will not be completed until at least the following academic year, and

WHEREAS: A large pool of over a hundred potential scholarship candidates exists within the WKU TRiO Student Support Services whose mission is to increase college retention and the graduation rates of first-generation and low income students, and

WHEREAS: Members of the SGA and the authors of this bill will not be eligible for this scholarship due to conflict of interest considerations, and

WHEREAS: A total of \$1,200 in funding will come from Senate Discretionary and be placed in a new fund specifically for the distribution of the First-Generation Scholarship, and

WHEREAS: Eligibility for the scholarship will be limited to first-generation college students who are enrolled full-time, and

WHEREAS: The Senate Student Affairs Committee shall determine how many recipients will receive scholarship funding for this semester, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will allocate \$1,200 to create the First-Generation Scholarship, a scholarship fund for students whose parents did not achieve a bachelor's degree and who have significant financial need.

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