

First Reading: April 16, 2013

Second Reading: April 23, 2013

Pass:

Other:

Resolution 8-13-S Resolution to Support Ending the Annual Increase in the Student Athletic Fee after joining Conference USA (C-USA)

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the ending of annual increases to the Student Athletic Fee after Western Kentucky University Athletics joins Conference USA (C-USA) in July 2014.

WHEREAS: The Student Athletic Fee, paid by all Western Kentucky University students, increases annually according to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), and

WHEREAS: The Student Athletic Fee has increased from \$200 to \$212 per semester from 2009-10 to 2012-13, representing a 6% increase, and

WHEREAS: With a Fall 2012 enrollment of 21,124,¹ the Student Athletic Fee generated \$4.48 million (\$4,478,288) in Fall 2012, and

WHEREAS: Without the HEPI increase since 2009, the Student Athletic Fee (that is, at \$200 per semester) would have generated \$4.22 million (\$4,224,800) for the same period, a difference of \$253,488, and

WHEREAS: In the Sun Belt Conference, Western Kentucky University Athletics pays \$80,000 in annual membership dues while receiving only \$40,000 back in revenue sharing, representing an annual \$40,000 loss,²

WHEREAS: Once Western Kentucky University joins Conference USA (C-USA) on July 1, 2014, according to Athletic Director Todd Stewart, Western Kentucky University “can expect to receive \$1 million to \$1.5 million annually in revenue sharing”³ or “\$1.17 million annually” received by C-USA member schools annually,⁴ and

WHEREAS: Whereas even \$1 million annually, or \$500,000 per semester, in revenue sharing would exceed the revenue generated by the extra \$12 per semester from the three-

¹ WKU Office of Institutional Research, “Enrollment Report” (Fall 2012), available at http://www.wku.edu/instres/documents/2012_quick_facts.pdf (accessed April 10, 2013).

² “Faculty regent wants self-sustaining athletic department,” *Daily News* (April 3, 2013).

³ “Faculty regent wants self-sustaining athletic department,” *Daily News* (April 3, 2013).

⁴ Chad Bishop, “WKU moving to Conference USA,” *Daily News* (March 31, 2013).

year (since 2009-10) HEPI increase to the Student Athletic Fee by \$246,512, which would still cover the \$150,000 per semester (\$300,000 per year) dues for C-USA membership, and

WHEREAS: As Western Kentucky University students face tuition increases and the University must make the case for increased funding from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a slight reduction in athletic fees demonstrates Western Kentucky University's commitment to direct revenues toward academics, and

WHEREAS: Other student fees correlated to the HEPI will not generate increased revenues after July 1, 2014, while Athletics will do so once Western Kentucky University joins C-USA, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University support ending the annual increase of the Student Athletic Fee after Western Kentucky University Athletics joins C-USA in July 2014.

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