



Resolution on the CUNY University Student Senate (USS) and Proposed USS Fee Increase

Whereas, the University Student Senate (USS) steering committee has announced they will propose a resolution at their meeting on May 12 to double their annual budget by doubling the fees each CUNY student pays to them; and

Whereas, an audit company was hired this year, but was unable to perform an audit because of poorly kept records and lack of previous audits performed in the past 10 years; and

Whereas, the audit committee in 2012-2013 was *ad-hoc* and comprised of only the Graduate Center's USS delegate and students at the Graduate Center and no official response to the audit committee report was ever received or entered into the USS minutes; and

Whereas, funds for leadership training should only be sought occasionally and responsibly with direct benefit to students immediately demonstrable within the year and should all come out of a specific dedicated budget line; and

Whereas, there is no transparent procedure established publicly for awarding the scholarships, and scholarships have only been awarded once in recent years; and

Whereas, the Doctoral Students' Council (DSC) considers the USS has failed to legitimately represent us, and operating under its current budget is incapable of representing our interests; and

Whereas, the DSC represents the Graduate Center students who pay USS fees; therefore, now be it

Resolved, the DSC will not participate in this vote on this resolution via our USS Delegate because that would lend legitimacy to this illegitimate resolution; and

Further Resolved, that the DSC opposes any such fee increase, until which time the USS becomes an actual advocate for students and commit its activities to their mission to "further the cause of public higher education and to promote the general welfare of its student constituents and the University;" and

Further Resolved, the USS speak actively, publicly and continually against anti-student administrative moves such as tuition raises and increased salary limits for the highest paid CUNY administrators through the Executive Compensation Plan; and

Further Resolved, the USS produce an independent student analysis of the new common core and no longer function as a mouthpiece for the administration; and

Further Resolved, the USS act upon their resolution condemning the spying on Muslim students by the NYPD, and that the USS publicly champion the right of students, and specifically their right to dissent loudly on their own campuses; and

Further Resolved, the USS advocate for a better system of getting information out to students during special circumstances that disrupts the lives of the CUNY student body, such Hurricane Sandy; and

Further Resolved, the USS produce an independent student report on the events on the November 2011 student protests, and formulated a response to the report produced by the Kroll Security Company calling for increased securitization and criminalization of student protests; and

Further Resolved, the USS fund the above by redoing their budget and spending student fees on activities that benefit CUNY, not just the USS members, particularly the steering committee; and

Further Resolved, that the USS switch to a digital financial record keeping system, and add a budget tracker to the website, updated regularly as money is spent to be truly transparent about the use of student fees; and

Further Resolved, that the DSC calls on the University Student Senate to not only dedicate a portion of its budget to a thorough, annual external audit, but actually dispense funds for the audit, and if the Budget Office of CUNY does not cooperate in facilitating this audit, that the USS draw public attention the failings of the administration to address this issue; and

Finally Resolved, that should the University Student Senate continue to fail the students of the City University of New York, the elected government of the Doctoral Students Council will pursue its rights and responsibilities to the Graduate Center students and withdraw its membership from the University Student Senate and seek to return the fees to its students through legal means, if necessary.

Passed unanimously, without abstention May 10, 2013