ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF ASU
GPSA ASSEMBLY
EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MAY 9, 2011

ASSEMBLY BILL # 55

INTRODUCED BY

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GPSA POSITION ON PROPOSED PROGRAM FEE INCREASE

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION,

WHEREAS Arizona State University and the Associated Students of Arizona State University (ASASU) entities, including the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), make use of the student-paid Student Programs fee to provide the offerings under their respective student service and support programs, and

WHEREAS the GPSA administers a number of such programs, including Travel grants, JumpStart Research grants, the Graduate Research Support program, and Student Organization and Event funding, among other service offerings, and

NOTING THAT the ability of GPSA to support graduate and professional students’ research and professional development initiatives relies almost completely on student-paid fee money for the resources required to maintain these programs, and

FURTHER NOTING THAT during the spring semester of the 2010-2011 academic year, there is a proposal under discussion among ASU administration and its five student governments to increase the student-paid Programs Fee (the “Fee”) from $25 to either $50 or $75 per semester which, at $50 would increase revenue by $3 million and at $75 would increase revenue by $6 million. The distribution of this money would be subject to revision yearly by the ASASU entities. The proposed distribution at the time of surveying the graduate student body for the $75 fee was as follows: 58%, $3.5 million to the ASASU branches funding (to be divided amongst the five student governments), 17%, $1 million to the Programming and Activities Boards, 7%, $1 million to intercollegiate athletics improvements (definition currently unspecified but would be made in the 2011-2012 Academic calendar via a memorandum of understanding between the ASASU Presidents Council and the Sun Devil Athletics administration), and 8%,
$500,000 to Sun Devil Spirit Club (a new student run organization designed to boost ASU Spirit, Pride and Tradition).

FURTHER NOTING THAT the results of a survey (open 4/30/11-5/7/11) distributed to existing graduate and professional students subscribed to the GradStu listserv with 401 respondents indicated that 63% of graduate students are opposed to any Student Programs fee increase at this time. Further, this survey asked if respondents would support any student program fee increase if it includes funding to NCAA-sanctioned intercollegiate athletics program (i.e. Sun Devil Athletics) or Spirit, Pride and Tradition activities with 70% of respondents answering “No.”

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GPSA officially opposes any increase in student Program Fees or in other similar fees, and, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED THAT the GPSA Assembly hereby directs the GPSA President and any other relevant GPSA Executives to strongly oppose this, or similar, fee increases in discussions with ASASU Presidents Council, ASU administration, and the Arizona Board of Regents.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT the results of the survey and GPSA’s position should be advertised to students through the GradStu listserv and relevant student news outlets, including, but not limited to, the State Press.