A Resolution to Re-Establish the Tuition Commission to Examine University Spending and Tuition Increases

Nick Benson (for himself) introduced the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Policy & Governance.

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Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government represents all Undergraduate Students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas, the undergraduate students of The Ohio State University have had to endure annual tuition increases as high as 12.9% per year, and

Whereas, the Tuition Commission was successful during the 37th Undergraduate Student Government in learning more about the budgetary process, examining University budgets, and working with administrators to fight for lower tuition, and

Whereas, the student statute which established the Tuition Commission is cleared at the beginning of a new Undergraduate Student Government,

Therefore let it be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government will undertake a budgetary review of The Ohio State University to assess funding of various offices, departments, divisions, and colleges; to ensure that the needs of undergraduates are met and to ensure that our tuition dollars are being spent efficiently, and

Therefore let it further be resolved that a Tuition Commission be created to accomplish the budgetary review as well as investigating and making recommendations to the administration in regards to spending and tuition increases; and

Therefore let it further be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government approves the mission statement and charter contained herein for the functionality of the commission to be abided by all members of the commission.

Floor Vote: Yea: 41  Nay: 0  Present: 0

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Suzanne Scharer     Nick Benson
President      Speaker of the Senate
COMMISSION charteR

This charter shall be the ruling document for 38-R-13 as sanctioned by the Undergraduate Student Government.

This charter shall remain in effect as per the By-Laws and of the Undergraduate Student Government.

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I. Structure

This commission shall be structured as follows:

A. The general body of the Commission shall consist of fourteen (14) voting members.
   1. Seven (7) members shall be Student Senators in good standing
   2. Seven (7) members shall be members of the Executive Branch
   3. No person or persons from the Judicial Branch may serve on this commission.

B. Of the fourteen members, there shall be three (3) officers.
   1. Chairpersons
      a) One (1) Commission Chair shall be a member in good standing within the Undergraduate Student Government Senate.
      b) One (1) Commission Chair shall be a member in good standing within the Undergraduate Student Government Executive Branch

2. Secretary
   a) The secretary shall be chosen by the Chairpersons

C. Subcommittees may be created within the commission at the discretion of the Chairs.

D. Other necessary positions or duties needing to be fulfilled within the commission may be created and delegated at the discretion of the Chairs.

II. Membership

A. The USG President shall be responsible for appointing the seven (7) cabinet members and the Speaker of the Senate shall be responsible for appointing the seven (7) Senators.

III. Duties of Officers

A. Commission Chairs
   1. The Commission Chairs shall have the following responsibilities:
a) Hold timely general body meetings of the commission.
b) Report all findings and business of the commission to relevant parties.
c) Appoint the Vice-Chair and Secretary of the commission.
d) Create necessary sub-committees within the Commission.
e) Appoint Chairs for created sub-committees.
f) Assist the Secretary in organizing reports and findings to be submitted to the Chair.
g) Ensure that all voting members of the commission are fulfilling the duties prescribed to them.
h) Ensure that sub-committees of the commission are fulfilling the duties prescribed to them.
i) Removing members of the commission who are not fulfilling their duties within the commission.

C. Secretary
1. The Secretary shall have the following responsibilities:
   a) Record attendance and minutes at all general body meetings of the commission.
   b) Collect and compile reports from any of the sub-committees of the commission to be submitted to the Chair.
   c) Collect and compile information and reports not collected and compiled by the Chair, Vice-Chair, or sub-committee chairs.
   d) Disseminate relevant materials, including, but not limited to: agendas; minutes; and reports to all members of the commission.

D. All official duties not specifically delegated in this charter shall be the responsibility of the Chairs.

IV. Sub-Committees
A. Sub-committees may be created as deemed necessary by the Commission Chair.
B. Each sub-committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members.
C. The sub-committee may only be chaired by one of the fourteen (14) voting members of the Commission, to be appointed by the Chair.
D. Sub-committees may consist of individuals who are not of the fourteen (14) voting members of the general body.
E. Sub-committees may be dissolved by a majority vote of the commission in the event that the sub-committee is determined to be irrelevant, unnecessary, or has completed its prescribed functions.

V. Reports
A. This Commission shall provide timely reports on all findings and business to the general body of Undergraduate Senate during regular senate meetings.

B. This Commission shall provide a report detailing all findings and business in the final week of each academic quarter to be submitted to the Undergraduate Student Government Senate, University Senate, and the Board of Trustees.

C. All sub-committees of the commission must submit timely reports to the Commission Secretary as requested by the Commission Chair.

IV. Hearings
   A. The commission shall have the power to call individuals to hearings in order to have questions answered before the commission.
   B. All hearings shall be announced to the public at least two (2) days prior to the hearing.
   C. Transcripts of the hearing shall be prepared and made available as soon as possible.
   D. Hearings may be conducted of the general public, if the commission so chooses.

V. Attendance
   A. Unless otherwise stipulated, attendance at all general body meetings of the commission is compulsory.
   B. In the event of an absence, each member of the commission shall have an alternate to fill his or her vacancy.
   C. All members of the commission are subject to the attendance policies outlined by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Undergraduate Student Government.

VI. Student Statute
   A. The Commission, its sub-committees, and its members shall be ultimately subject to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Student Statute of the Undergraduate Student Government during all meetings and functions.