Bill to Hold a Referendum on the Student Activities Fee

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the Engineering Governing Council (EGC) to fund its member organizations; and

Whereas, EGC was able to fund only 41% of what its member organizations needed for the Spring semester; and

Whereas, the value of the money EGC receives from the Student Activities Fee has fallen 19.7% since 2007 due to inflation; and

Whereas, the School Fee, of which the Student Activities Fee is part, already varies by school, and the Student Activities Fee itself formerly varied by school; and

Whereas, direct disbursements may be created within the Student Activities Fee; and

Whereas, student referendum is the designated method for changing the Student Activities Fee; therefore

Be it hereby enacted that,

1. The Elections Committee chair will place a ballot question on the Spring elections ballot with the text “Would you like to raise the SOE Student Activities Fee by $5.58 to increase funding for SOE student organizations?”

2. The following explanatory text will be attached to the ballot question: “This measure would create a direct disbursement within the Student Activities Fee of $5.58 charged to engineering undergraduate students, and given to engineering student organizations in addition to current allocations. For reference, engineering student organizations currently receive $22.80 per engineering student. If this amount had been raised to keep pace with inflation since 2007 when it was implemented, it would have been raised by $5.58.”

Engineering Governing Council

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3. All undergraduate engineering students will be able to respond “Yes” or “No” to the above stated ballot question.

4. If the majority of the students voting cast their ballots in the affirmative and the requisite percentage of students vote, then the student body shall thereby authorize the Engineering Governing Council to levy a $5.58 increase to the Student Activities Fee as an additional direct disbursement to EGC, paid for by all of the undergraduate students of the School of Engineering.

5. The Elections Committee chair, in consultation with the President and the Associate Dean for Student Services, shall certify the results of the election to the Council and to the Associate Dean for Student Services, and said certification shall be made publicly available.

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