

First Reading: August 30, 2016
Second Reading: September 6, 2016
Pass: September 6, 2016
Other:

Bill 4-16-F Bill to Support the Creation of Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support students with disabilities through scholarships.

WHEREAS: According to the Western Kentucky University Student Government Association (WKU SGA) Constitution, the purpose of WKU SGA is to “address student needs, interests, and opinions toward all aspects of university life, [and] promote student well-being,” and

WHEREAS: The unique challenges students with disabilities face during their university experience is often overlooked, and

WHEREAS: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 defines a person with a disability as “a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment,” and

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University students with disabilities often face significant challenges during their university experience, and the classroom should be an inclusive, respectful environment. Some disabilities include, but are not limited to, hearing loss, low vision or blindness, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, mobility disabilities, epilepsy, anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Asperger’s disorder, traumatic brain injury, etc., and

WHEREAS: In order to serve students with disabilities, \$1,000.00 of the WKU SGA Operating Budget (\$500.00 from Football Tabling & Ads and \$500.00 from Food) will be dedicated exclusively to scholarships for these students, and

WHEREAS: The Academic Affairs Committee will be entrusted with determining how many scholarships (e.g. two scholarships for \$500.00 each; four scholarships for \$250.00 each) will be awarded to students with disabilities, and

WHEREAS: Currently, few university scholarships are dedicated solely to students with disabilities, and WKU SGA can lead the way in cultivating a more inclusive and respectful campus environment through creation of new WKU SGA scholarships.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University support students with disabilities through scholarships.

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SPONSOR: Legislative Research Committee

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