Recommendation to Adjust Student Activity Fee for Inflation

Resolution No. 005

DATE OF INTRODUCTION: February 4, 2024

SPONSOR: Sevor, Max

COSPONSORS: Tylenda, Meg; Jones, Madeleine; Rainey, Jack; Giorgianni, Stephen

PURPOSE: This resolution, if passed, shall serve as a formal recommendation to the Albany Law School Board of Trustees to adjust the student activity fee to $100.00 per semester—a $25.00 increase—by at least the Fall 2024 semester.

RESOLUTION TEXT:

WHEREAS, the student activity fee is a $75.00 charge collected from students each semester to fund student events, organizations, and other programs outside the formal law school curriculum.

WHEREAS, collecting a student activity fee is a widespread, nearly universal practice among not only law schools but many institutions of higher education.

WHEREAS, the Student Bar Association is charged with the responsibility of distributing the proceeds of the student activity fee to various SBA-Chartered Entities and student initiatives.

WHEREAS, the last time the Albany Law School Board of Trustees increased the student activity fee, the change took effect in the 2017-18 school year: about six years ago.

WHEREAS, since the 2017-18 school year, and due to inflation, the buying power of the $75.00 per semester fee has decreased to about $59.73 per semester. In other words, had the fee kept up with inflation, there would be approximately $10,000.00 more in value to allocate to student organizations, events, and activities for the Fall 2023 semester.

WHEREAS, in Fall 2023, the Student Bar Association had to make $15,000.00 worth of cuts to student-proposed events and initiatives.

WHEREAS, in Fall 2023, the Student Bar Association spent/earmarked a total of $61,437.80.

WHEREAS, in Spring 2024, the Student Bar Association's Finance Committee had to make about $40,000.00 worth of cuts to student-proposed events and initiatives.

WHEREAS, a $25.00 increase in the student activity fee would lead to roughly $15,000.00 more a semester to allocate to student programs.

WHEREAS, following the passage of Resolution No. 004, recommending the Albany Law School Board of Trustees increase the student activity fee by $10.00 per semester, the members of the Albany Law School Board of Trustees have recommended the Albany Law School Student Bar Association recommend an even greater increase in the student activity fee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Albany Law School Student Bar Association formally requests that the Albany Law School Board of Trustees increase the student activity fee by $25.00 ($100.00 per semester) by the Fall 2024, should that be feasible.

BE IT RESOLVED, if the Albany Law School Board of Trustees deems that it is infeasible to increase the student activity fee by the Fall 2024 semester, the Albany Law School Student Bar Association then formally requests that the student activity fee be raised by $25.00 per semester ($100.00 per semester in total) by the Spring 2025 semester.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Executive President and Executive Treasurer of the Student Bar Association shall attach a cover letter to this resolution addressed to the Board of Trustees explaining the financial circumstances leading to the Student Bar Association to make this request.
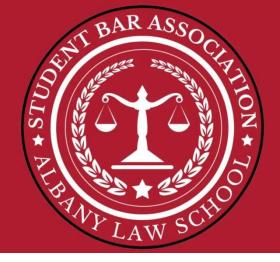
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Chair Dan Grossman of the Albany Law School Board of Trustees, President and Dean Cinnamon Carlarne of Albany Law School, Student Trustee Isabella Napodano, Vice President for Finance and Business Victor Rauscher, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Jenean Taranto.

Below for President and Secretary use only.

SENATE VOTE:

OUTCOME: [PASSED/FAILED/TABLED]

DATE:

We, the undersigned, affirm that this is a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Student Bar Association Senate.

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Max Sevor, Executive President

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Ashlyn Henrichs, Executive Secretary

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