



ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 9-015

A PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION TO CREATE A PROJECT ACCOUNT TO AID SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS IN PARTAKING IN CSG

- WHEREAS,** members of the Central Student Government (CSG) Assembly do not receive payment for their service; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** in addition to lengthy weekly evening meetings with unpredictable adjournment times, members of the Assembly often commit multiple hours per week to the organization, including meeting with faculty, working on projects, and writing resolutions; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the CSG President and Vice President routinely commit a minimum of 40 hours a week to CSG,¹ thus working the equivalent of a full-time job without pay in addition to taking classes (usually a full course load); **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the CSG Treasurer is tasked with the management of a nearly-million-dollar annual budget; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Commission Chairs oversee multiple initiatives and events throughout the year as well as managing other members of their Commissions without pay; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the cost of living in Ann Arbor is high, especially for students without in-state status,² and the cost of housing in Ann Arbor is particularly burdensome to students;³ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** CSG members who have out-of-state status, and/or whose lower socioeconomic status (SES) results in them needing to hold part-time or full-time jobs to get through school, are unable to fully participate in CSG and are therefore less likely to get involved; **AND**

¹ Google Calendar for bwgerst@umich.edu and isablan@umich.edu

² <https://finaid.umich.edu/cost-of-attendance/>

³ http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/12/off-campus_rent_increases_as_i.html

WHEREAS, the absence of CSG compensation correlates with the absence of a need for it, due to the historic lack of socioeconomic diversity within CSG as a whole -- the most recent report found that students from family incomes of \$250,000 or more made up nearly 40% of the 6th Assembly, and those from family incomes of \$100,000 or more made up 70%;⁴ **AND**

WHEREAS, past holders of the offices of CSG President and Vice President have been even less diverse, having overwhelmingly been from high-SES backgrounds;⁵ **AND**

WHEREAS, CSG has at times been ignorant of the woes, experiences, and struggles of students who are socio-economically disadvantaged, seeming to initially be unable to understand the socio-economic equity implications of a policy requiring those involved in a University hearing to have legal counsel,⁶ having political parties run on policies that are accused of failing to address any of the “legitimate means to solve the problem of food insecurity that is endemic to many students across campus,”⁷ and, most notably, having released an Affordability Guide whose “advice seemed to come from a place of outright privilege, exhibiting just how removed from campus life [CSG was] by issuing out ‘budgeting’ tips such as firing one’s gardener or to stop using a laundry service,” or whose “One tip included the suggestion that students pay off their credit card debt with another credit card”;⁸ **AND**

WHEREAS, being eligible for the Pell Grant is viewable in one’s FAFSA or Financial Aid section of Wolverine Access even for students that for non-financial reasons (e.x. citizenship) would not be able to receive Pell Grant aid, and this status can easily be recorded and shared; **AND**

WHEREAS, under a high estimate, compensating Pell-Grant-eligible and would-be-Pell-Grant-eligible individuals serving in the highest-workload positions on CSG would likely cost on the order of \$10,000 per semester;
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that a Project Account entitled “Need-Based Student Compensation” is authorized for the purpose of holding the funds to fulfill compensation

⁴ <https://umcsg.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/csg-report-final-1.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.michigandaily.com/news/data-demonstrates-questionable-diversity-csg>

⁶ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/student-government/csg-debates-university-sexual-misconduct-policy-changing-assembly-weekly>

⁷ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/editorials/daily-vote-your-conscience>

⁸ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/editorials/daily-csg-cannot-afford-another-misstep>

requests from students who are Pell Grant eligible or would be eligible based on the Expected Family Contribution listed on the FAFSA SAR, according to the rules and budget laid out in Appendix A; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED,

that at the beginning of the Winter 2020 semester, an email will be sent out to all members of CSG notifying them of this Project Account and their potential eligibility for its funds.

Sponsors

Carla Voigt, Engineering

Sam Braden, LSA

Endorsers

Affordable Michigan

Attest



Whit Froehlich, Medicine
Speaker of the Assembly

Yes: 12

No: 0

Abstain: 6

Date: 3 December 2019

Presidential Approval


Ben Gerstein, Ford
President

11/6/19
Date

Appendix A

Suggested Rules and Guidelines for Need-based Student Compensation:

- In order to be approved for access to the fund in a given semester, a member must send verification of their Pell Grant eligibility according to their FAFSA SAR to the Program Director before that semester's budget has been approved.
- The Program Manager must make the totals in each class of eligible individual (Assembly, Executive, Judicial, and Commissions/Task Forces) available to any individual working to prepare a budget.
- In order to be approved for access to the fund in a given semester, an individual must be one of the following classes of individual:
 - Elected and appointed members of the Assembly
 - The following members of the Executive Branch:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Student General Counsel
 - Chief of Staff
 - Chief Programming Officer
 - CSJ Justices
 - Commission or Task Force Chairs
- Individuals must not claim compensation in a semester beyond the number of hours specified in the budget allocation equation for their class.
- Upon verifying that a member is or would be Pell Grant eligible based on the Expected Family Contribution listed on their FAFSA SAR, and upon submission of hourly requests, the Program Manager will approve the disbursement to the student's account.
- Hourly requests must provide some documentation of evidence regarding meetings or work done outside of meetings. Compensation will be for any verifiable work pertaining to CSG, including writing resolutions, meeting with faculty, or official CSG member meetings, as verified by the Program Manager.

The amount allocated should be as follows:

$$M * W * (A * 7 + E * 15 + J * 1 + CTF * 5)$$

Key:

M - current Michigan minimum wage

W - number of weeks per semester

A - number of fund-approved elected or appointed members of the Assembly

E - number of fund-approved eligible members of the Executive Branch

J - number of fund-approved CSJ justices

CTF - number of fund-approved Chairs of Commissions and Task Forces

Each number in the equation is an estimate of weekly hours for the listed positions.