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A Bill To Change Student Body Fees

Whereas, Student body fees were quite insufficient to cover requests by student organizations in the 1993-1994 fiscal year.

Whereas, The value of fees collected is always being decreased by the constant process of inflation.

Whereas, Increases in Willamette University CLA tuition are generally reflective of the cost of inflation.

Be it therefor enacted that Article VII, Sec. 1. of the ASWU constitution be changed to read

Sec.1. Income in the Association shall be derived from money received in the form of fees paid upon registration at Willamette University and from other such receipts as may result from the activity program of the association. Student body fees are calculated as being equal to .7% of full time Willamette University CLA full time tuition.

This amendment shall take affect at the beginning of the Fall 1994 semester.

Respectfully submitted on this eighth day of December, 1993

David Rickard- Off-Campus Senator *DR*
Greg Koger-ASWU Treasurer *GK*
David Williams- Kappa Sigma Senator *DW*

Every once in a while, it's fun to reminisce about how low prices used to be. I used to be able to buy a candy bar for 25 cents, a haircut for \$6, or go to a movie for \$4. Times change, though, and so do prices. For decades, *inflation*-the constant increase in prices-has been an economic fact of life in America.

However, ASWU has traditionally been ill-equipped to deal with this economic reality. ASWU has always collected its dues in fixed dollar amounts-first \$40, then \$45. The problem with this system is that either ASWU fees must be constantly increased through the laborious process of constitutional amendments, or the value of ASWU money-what ASWU can actually buy-constantly decreases as prices increase.

Last December Senate approved an amendment to the ASWU Constitution to improve the way ASWU collects dues from ASWU students. The goal of this amendment is quite simple: to increase the stability of ASWU funding by linking ASWU fees to CLA tuition, an easily accessible statistic that corrects for inflation.

This constitutional amendment would change annual ASWU dues to an annual rate of .7% of CLA tuition, which is about what you pay this year. With this amendment, when university fees increase to cover inflation, ASWU fees will also be raised enough to maintain the same purchasing power.

My esteemed colleague, Vice-President Kenski, has expressed in a nearby column her resistance to this amendment. She believes that there is intrinsic worth to requiring ASWU to constantly ask for fee increases to make up for inflation. While I support the desire for responsible, representative government, I believe Willamette students would do themselves a disservice by maintaining the current haphazard system.

First, this amendment would clarify all future ASWU fee increases or reductions. Since fees would be inflation-protected, future treasurers would not be able to claim that fee increases are intended to cover the cost of inflation. Instead, ASWU members would debate exactly how large they wanted ASWU to be and what services it should provide by debating the percentage of tuition that is charged all members.

Second, changing to a percentage basis ensures that ASWU will be able to provide the same services-free student newspapers, ASWU Activities, club subsidies-from year to year without being squeezed by decreasing purchasing power.

Finally, ASWU will always be kept accountable by the students' ability to amend the Constitution and alter the percentage of tuition charged or (though I doubt this will be desired) even revert back to fixed dollar amount fees.

Therefore, I encourage you to take advantage of your opportunity to support this constitutional amendment. You can vote for this amendment

during off-campus senator elections in the mailroom. You can't make prices go backwards, but you can ensure realistic budgeting for years to come.