Senate

of the

Student Government Association

of

The Johns Hopkins University

{ *S. Resolution 20-21, 00* }

A Resolution calling for increased monetary funding for PILOT

Introduced By: Senator Jenny Chen and Senator Anish Nayak considered this **23rd** day of **March** in the Year **2021**

Sponsored By: Senator Veda Chanda and senator CiCi Zhang

Referred to the senate by the **Academic affairs committee** which recommends its **PASSAGE** by a vote of **8** to **0**.

Whereas the mission of the Johns Hopkins University is "To educate its students and cultivate their capacity for lifelong learning, to foster independent and original research, and to bring the benefits of discovery to the world;" and

Whereas According to a Fall 2020 survey conducted by OneClass of over 14,000

college students, 85.4% stated that pandemic-related conditions have negatively affected their academic performance; and

Whereas In a study conducted on peer tutoring programs in higher education institutions, peer tutors are better able to understand why the tutee is having difficulty and teach at a more appropriate level compared to third-party tutors. Peers may also be able to increase the students enthusiasm for learning and students feel more comfortable discussing performance issues with peers than with faculty; and

Whereas In the Second Commission on Undergraduate Education Report, it states that "students should be able to count on the significant, positive presence of faculty, staff, and administrators from matriculation to graduation and beyond" and "providing this support will also require creation of and investment in faculty mentoring programs", however, this recommendation can also be completed through more investment in peer-tutoring programs because "students build cohorts through their affinity and passion for topics and interests"; and

Whereas Numerous peer institutions have implemented large peer-led group tutoring programs in order to better support the academic needs of students; and

Whereas other peer-tutoring programs offered by our peer institutions like Washington University at Saint Louis provide significantly more resources in training and support to peer leaders. WUSTL "designed two one-credit courses in which all peer-leaders must enroll, our peer leaders learn how to be strong mentors in their group, and they form a collaborative group of their own to help one another address common problems"; and

Whereas PILOT is an innovative program developed by the City College of New York and Washington University in Saint Louis, composed of group-based learning led by a peer who previously earned an A- or higher in the course, and groups meet for 2 hours a week to collaboratively solve faculty-developed problem-sets in addition to lectures, section, and course-work; and

Whereas Students have repeatedly expressed their concern over the lack of PILOT course offerings, particularly for intro/prerequisite courses such as Intro to Probability,

Genetics, Biochemistry, Intermediate Spanish I & II, and Intermediate Programming; and

Whereas The PILOT program requires at an minimum 130k a year to operate in order to pay for student-staff salary; and

Whereas PILOT enrollment has steadily increased every year since Fall 2014 and there was a sharp increase in PILOT enrollment in Fall 2020 with nearly 3100 enrollments; and

Whereas In a sample poll of 125 Hopkins freshmen, nearly 83% stated that they used PILOT in some form; and

Whereas In fall 2020, there has been an uptick in demand for PILOT courses, especially with the new math course requirement. However, due to PILOT only having 2 staff coordinators, limited student leaders, and a budget for salary that is maxed out, the program is unable to accommodate additional courses; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Johns Hopkins Student Government Association encourages the Johns Hopkins Administration to:

1. Collaborate with Director of Academic Support Ariane Kelly and Senior Academic Program Coordinator Kristen Heisey, to immediately increase funding for PILOT to meet student demand for the 2021 Spring/Fall semester;
2. Increase the PILOT budget in preparation for future years;
3. Gauge the need for additionally coverage of courses through a PILOT-created survey, and encourage the creation of PILOT sessions for courses that are not currently covered and highly requested

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education Dr. Michael Falk, Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education Dr. Joel Schildbach, Assistant Dean for Academic Advising Jessica Martin, and University Provost Sunil Kumar

THE RESOLUTION HEREBY **PASSES** BY A VOTE OF **28** TO **0** WITH **0** ABSTENTIONS.

Upon adoption, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the Senate to be affixed to this resolution indicating the senate's assent and thus officially designating the resolution's adoption as the position and will of the Senate and the Student Body of The Johns Hopkins University.

Signatures of Enactment:

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Mehak Ali
President of the Senate
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Sam Mollin
Executive President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Breanna Soldatelli
Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Addy Perlman
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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