

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, TEMPE SENATE
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

SENATE BILL 25
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An Act to Reduce Students' Educational Expenses

WHEREAS the Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe was formed to provide a forum for inter-university dialogue, to organize student involvement, and to advocate for and administer services, resources, and programs that benefit the students of Arizona State University;

WHEREAS, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has lead to great uncertainty for undergraduate students, which has put additional stress on their financial security;

WHEREAS Title VI Article 6.6 of the USGT Bylaws states that “All monies within the Appropriations Budget that are not used or allocated during the appropriations cycles can be re-dispersed by the USGT Senate for the funding of other requests.”

NOTING that the latest budget update submitted to the USGT Senate by USGT President Jacqueline Palmer indicated that the Appropriations General Fund still contains more than \$350,000, representing more than three times the amount which was dispensed during the fall funding cycle.

FURTHER NOTING that the USGT budget from Academic Year 2020-2021 cannot be carried over to the 2021-2022 academic year;

FURTHER NOTING that it is important to spend the USGT student fee money each year for the benefit of students who are currently paying those fees;

FURTHER NOTING that USGT can support students who are having unexpected financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other inter-related crises by contributing funds towards areas of significant need;

COGNIZANT OF the fact that USGT has previously allocated significant levels of funding to the ASU office of Student Advocacy and Assistance's crisis fund, a sum of money which has not yet been exhausted.

COGNIZANT OF the fact that expenses related to books and supplies constitute a significant educational cost for many students. ASU estimates these expenses at more than \$1000 per year for the average student,¹ and other Universities have found that this level of cost for educational materials creates a significant financial burden for low-income students.²

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED that the Senate shall allocate \$50,000 from the remaining Academic Year 2020-2021 USGT Appropriations General Fund to the Executive Contingency Fund for the purpose of funding a textbook/supplies store credit pilot program created by USGT President Jacqueline Palmer. To preserve Senate oversight of these funds, President Palmer will submit to the Senate a monthly report detailing how these funds are being utilized.

¹ <https://students.asu.edu/standard-cost-attendance>

² <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2015/5/8/textbook-costs-burdensome-feature/>