

Assembly Bill 23-42

Twenty-Third Legislative Session

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Gurshant Grewal, Assembly Member, Thunderbird School of Global Management
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Sara Walton, PhD Student, School of Life Sciences

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Saahithi Mallapragada, PhD Student, The School of Life Sciences
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Lizbeth Nieves, PhD student, CLAS - SOLS
Olivia Nguyen, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Sofia Rocha, PhD Student, School of Life Sciences
Finlay Warsop Thomas, PhD Candidate, SOLS
Janna Hynds, Communications director of SOLS graduate council,
Jason Lacson, PhD Candidate, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Jake Drewes, PhD Student, College of Liberal Arts and Science School of Life Science
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Alexis, PhD candidate, School of Life Sciences
Sofia Gonzalez, PhD Student, School of life sciences
Daniel Bisgrove, Ph.D. Candidate, Vice President & Events Coordinator | School of Life Sciences Graduate Executive Board, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Anna Dale, PhD Student, School of Life Sciences
Brooklyn Scott, PhD student, School of Life Sciences
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Dalia Maeroff, PhD student, School of Human Evolution and Social Change
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Eduardo Ortega, Assembly Member, Ira A Fulton Schools of Engineering
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Ashish Bommana, PhD Student, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering
Jayeeta Chaudhuri, PhD Student, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering
Deepesh Sahoo, PhD Student, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering
Jonna Urban, Graduate Research Assistant, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

January 17, 2025

Negating Outrageously Furnished Extra Expenses and Surcharges Fund Act (NO FEES Fund Act)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This act establishes a fund of just over \$1/3 million to use GSG funds to reimburse graduate and professional students for the “tuition surcharge” levied by ASU in the Spring 2025 semester.

CONTEXT - TUITION SURCHARGE

WHEREAS, Arizona State University (ASU) announced on September 23, 2024, its intent to charge students at the university a “Tuition Surcharge” of up to \$350 per person in the Spring 2025 semester to alleged cover the \$24 million budget shortfall created by the Arizona State Legislature cutting university funding;

WHEREAS, GSG was not sufficiently notified of this “tuition surcharge”¹;

WHEREAS, GSG finds the imposition of the “tuition surcharge” to place an undue burden on the graduate and professional student body²;

CONTEXT - BUDGET AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, section 3.1 of Article 3 of the GSG Constitution³ grants the Assembly sole and full legislative and fiscal power;

WHEREAS, the GSG Assembly approved GSG’s annual operational budget⁴ for the 2024-2025 fiscal year via the passage of AB 23-25⁵ on September 10, 2024;

WHEREAS, it is necessary, from time to time, for the GSG Assembly to amend GSG’s annual operational budget in response to actual usage of allocated funds throughout the year;

¹ [AR 23-03 Notifying Officers Timely Instead of Flagrantly Yeeting Invaluable Norms and Guidelines Unbeknownst to Students \(NOTIFYING US\) Resolution](#)

² [AR 23-03 Notifying Officers Timely Instead of Flagrantly Yeeting Invaluable Norms and Guidelines Unbeknownst to Students \(NOTIFYING US\) Resolution](#)

³ [GSG Constitution \(May 2024\)](#)

⁴ [GSG Operational Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year](#)

⁵ [AB 23-25: AN ACT TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL OPERATIONS BUDGET OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT](#)

WHEREAS, GSG established a “Committee Projects” line item in the annual operational budget that requires the GSG Assembly to approve approve any and all reallocations, disbursements, distributions, or payments utilizing funds allocated to said line item⁶;

NOTING THAT, this often requires the Assembly to pass amendments to the GSG Operational Budget to incorporate these new monies into the GSG Operational Budget;

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED THAT, GSG shall establish a fund of \$350,000 to provide direct assistance to graduate and professional students who have been assessed the “Tuition Surcharge” in the Spring 2025 semester;

ENACTMENT - FUND ESTABLISHMENT

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, students shall be eligible for this fund so long as they meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be a member of GSG
2. Have been assessed a “Tuition Surcharge” in Spring 2025 semester
3. Have not had the “Tuition Surcharge” already paid for or waived (such as through tuition remission or other means)
4. Current GSG officeholders may not apply to this fund until twenty-four (24) hours after the public announcement of the opening of the application for the fund.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, the Treasury Committee shall create an application form and distribute it via all official GSG Communications channels for graduate and professional students to request money from the Tuition Surcharge CoverageFund;

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, any student who submits the application form by February 14th, 2025, and who is determined to be eligible as laid out in this bill, shall receive the amount of funds equivalent to the amount of the Tuition Surcharge that student was assessed in the Spring 2025 semester, if funds are still available, on a first-come-first-served basis;

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, if prior to the deadline, projected funds to be sent to students exceeds 110% of the budgeted amount, the application form may be closed and the form responses prepared to send to the business office;

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, before the responses are submitted to the business office, the Government Operations Committee shall review the prepared responses;

ENACTMENT - BUDGET AMENDMENT

⁶ [AB 23-34 G.O.B.B.L.E. Bill Act](#)

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, to fund this, the GSG Operational Budget is hereby amended to have \$350,000 reallocated from the existing "Committee Projects" line item into a new "Tuition Surcharge Coverage Fund" line item;

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, the description of this new line item shall be as follows: "Funds to be provided to individual students to offset the cost of the "Tuition Surcharge" assessed by ASU during the Spring 2025 semester";

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT, upon the passage of this resolution, a copy shall be transmitted to the Director of Strategic Initiatives, Associated Students and Faculty Associate Dr. Jen O'Brien (jen.obrien@asu.edu), Deputy Vice President, Student Services Dr. Cassandra Aska (cassandra.aska@asu.edu), Deputy Vice President, Student Services Dr. Kendra Hunter (kendra.hunter@asu.edu), Vice President of Student Services Dr. Joanne Vogel (joanne.vogel@asu.edu), Senior Vice President of Educational Outreach & Student Services (EOSS) Dr. James Rund (james.rund@asu.edu), Dean of Students Tempe Dr. Lance Harrop (harrop@asu.edu), Dean of Students Downtown Phoenix Dr. Robert Dotson (robert.l.dotson@asu.edu), Dean of Students West Valley Dr. M. Regina Matos (regina.matos@asu.edu), Dean of Students Polytechnic Dr. Daniel Drane (daniel.drane@asu.edu), Dean of Students California Center Dr. Stacey Freeman (stacey.freeman@asu.edu), and ASU President Dr. Michael Crow (michael.crow@asu.edu).