

R W2020.02

A Resolution to Establish the LSA Student Government Endowment Fund

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

January 29th 2020

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, LSA SG has sought to create a more equitable environment where students can feel free to participate without fear of barriers, financial or otherwise; and,

Whereas, the results of the LSA SG demographic survey from the Fall of 2019² indicate a lack of diversity of socioeconomic status within LSA SG and,

Whereas, as part of the goal to better represent the student body of the College, LSA SG should enact initiatives that can help encourage those that face barriers to participate in LSA SG; and,

Whereas, previous discussions to incentivize undergraduate student participation with financial compensation within LSA SG have sought alternative sources of funding than from the University of Michigan (hereafter the University), including, but not limited to, the student fees that LSA SG receives each academic term; and,

Whereas, LSA SG has specifically denounced with public executive statements³ the request of funds from the University or drawing of funds from a budget funded by student fees when other sponsored student organizations have sought to compensate their student representatives⁴; and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

²<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pB4IRtkFSleVkg0VLR9XQUlsgmQZByiWqvEuWv5FEBS/edit?usp=sharing>

³ https://www.facebook.com/lasag/?tn-str=k*F

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<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/campus-life/residence-halls-association-resolution-pay-executive-members-spurs-criticism>

Whereas, the sponsors understand that it is unfair and improper to use student fees as a justifiable source of compensation; and,

Whereas, instead, LSA SG should seek to form an endowment, created and partially managed through the office of LSA Advancement, that will last in perpetuity and aims to assist students who face financial-specific barriers in taking on unpaid student leadership positions; and,

Whereas, the express purpose of this endowment will use the investment payouts as a source for a scholarship fund aimed at LSA SG participants facing circumstances mentioned before; and,

Whereas, a minimum of \$25,000 is required to establish an initial endowment in order to receive the returns from that investment; and,

Whereas, the endowment will target and earn its funds through donor support, especially through a network of LSA SG alumnus.

Be it therefore resolved, the management of the endowment will be guided by LSA Advancement and no LSA SG Representative will be able to retract funds raised specifically for the endowment; and,

Be it further resolved, the allocation of funding from the endowment fund will be the responsibility of the LSA Scholarship office and at no point will any member of LSA SG be allowed to determine who receives funding from the endowment fund, and;

Be it further resolved, LSA SG will look to house the internal management of the endowment underneath the responsibilities of the Treasurer; and,

Be it finally resolved, LSA SG will seek to finalize the establishment of the endowment fund upon the passage of this resolution.