BRHR-12-02 PASSED on this 24th day of February, 2012 by a vote of 21 YES and 1 NO

Signature – House Speaker ________________________________

Boris Bastidas
WHEREAS: Students in pursuit of their education at Florida Atlantic University have in recent years faced a continuous rise in their tuition, and;

WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University raised tuition by $17.84 per credit hour prior to the 2011-2012 academic year, and;
WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University raised tuition by $20.26 per credit hour prior to the 2010-2011 academic year, and;

WHEREAS: The state of Florida raised tuition by 8 percent and then Florida Atlantic University raised tuition by 7 percent prior to the 2009-2010 academic year, and;

WHEREAS: Since 2009 alone, students have been affected by the addition of the technology fee, as well as increases in the health services fee, activity and service fee, the transportation fee, as well as housing increases, and;

WHEREAS: Bright Futures Scholarships have been cut and stricter requirements have been implemented, and;

WHEREAS: Continuing tuition hikes will adversely impact student progress, capacities and retention, and;

WHEREAS: Every year, 10 percent of the total Activity and Service fee revenue is obligated to be maintained in the VP of Student Affairs account, with over $900,000 having gone into this reserve account for fiscal year 2011-2012, and;

WHEREAS: Each year, Activity and Service fee revenue is budgeted at a conservative projection, however, Student Government historically brings in more revenue than projected, thereby resulting in excess revenue, and;

WHEREAS: Most years, the total amount spent by student government as a whole is actually less than is budgeted, and remaining money in accounts is pulled back into the A&S fund, and;

WHEREAS: Each year, certain Student Government entities raise revenue, with a total of $96,750 having been raised by the entire SG last fiscal year alone, and;

WHEREAS: Besides funding programming, student media, salaries, clubs, projects and contingency accounts, funding from University-wide and Campus budget allocations have gone to Student Affairs departments, positions and other non-SG affiliated entities and projects, and;

WHEREAS: There are serious and legitimate concerns about possible severe budget cuts from the state, however the Florida House of Representatives has not passed its own budget, and;

WHEREAS: Any budget proposal from the Florida House would then have to be reconciled with the Florida Senate budget proposal, and;

WHEREAS: The state’s Governor has indicated he does not believe in the current cuts that single out certain schools like USF and FAU, and;

WHEREAS: Although it is possible that FAU Administration could tap into Activity and Service funds in the event of an extreme emergency, the extent of such an event is unknown since the

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
final official cuts are not yet known, and precedent shows that the Board of Trustees has consistently raised tuition to fill in budget shortfalls after the cuts are made, not before;

WHEREAS: If an A&S fee increase is needed as a result of state budget cuts, it should and can be increased at a later time, such as during the summer while the University as a whole is reacting to the budget cuts, and;

WHEREAS: Any funds from the VPSA Reserve account currently require a bill passed from the University-wide Student Senate to be released, and;

WHEREAS: This Student Affairs reserve account will actually be bigger since the Student Senate has been budgeted with its own contingency account during this year’s University Budget Allocation Committee, and will no longer have to tap into the reserve account as much as it had in the past, and;

WHEREAS: There exists no Constitutional or Statutory rules on how the LOCSTG fund can be accessed in the event of emergencies such as the impact of state budget cuts, and;

WHEREAS: On Wednesday, February 22, an advisory board composed of a majority of students met to discuss an increase to A&S fees and voted at the end of the meeting for an up to 5% increase in the fee,

WHEREAS: There is no clear indication as to whether the meeting was announced to the public in the spirit of transparency, while it is also unclear whether this meeting was even intended to be open to the public, and;

WHEREAS: Several student leaders were not aware of any meetings by this advisory board, and;

WHEREAS: Student Government officials on this advisory board were mostly executive officials, such as Campus Governors and the Vice President, and;

WHEREAS: There were also students on the advisory board who are not in Student Government, which is respectable since they have a right to have say however they may not be well versed in how A&S fee funds are allocated and spent, and;

WHEREAS: There were no Treasurers present, and just one Campus House Speaker was present, meaning there were no Senators or House Representatives, and;

WHEREAS: It is the Legislative Branches of Student Government that deal with budget allocations, statue revisions and the establishment of policy for SG, and;

WHEREAS: Any official action or opinion by Student Government as a whole or by its entities is done through legislation, be it bills or resolutions, or executives orders or memorandums, and;

WHEREAS: Section 207.516 of the 200 Statutes states that the University Wide Budget Allocation Committee can: Recommend the formation of a committee to determine if a credit-
hour increase in A & S fees is necessary in order to meet budgetary requirements. This would be discussed with the Vice President for Student Affairs, Director of SGAB, Student Government Advisors, and the Student Body President, and;

WHEREAS: This establishes that any vote or opinion set forth by this Student Affairs advisory boards does not necessarily reflect an official opinion by any entity or official of FAU Student Government, and;

WHEREAS: The last time the Activity and Service fee was increased, it was followed by a Student Government salary increase and a bloated budget for accounts such as the House contingency, and;

WHEREAS: Such potential for salary increases or unnecessary increases in budget amounts should cause alarm before any increases in Activity and Service fee revenue, and;

WHEREAS: It should be that this Student Government stipulate several conditions before any such increases in A&S fees is considered and before any Student Affairs advisory board makes any recommendations to the Board of Trustees, NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Boca Raton House of Representatives oppose any increases in Activity and Service fees prior to the final official State budget cuts are known to the public, and;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That it is clearly stipulated by Student Affairs and the Student Government Accounting and Budget Office just how much the considered increase in Activity and Service fee is and what the final official State budget cuts will mean to Activity & Service fees, and;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That it is recommended to the University-wide Student Senate that a committee of the whole is created that determines what any projected increases will be spent on prior to any increase being approved while also discussing any potential changes to the current budget process on how to access reserve account funds, and;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That it is advised that the 200 statutes be visited and revised, in order to clarify the rules and procedure for accessing LOCSTG funds in the event of emergencies such as massive state budget cuts, and;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution is presented to the Vice President of Student Affairs, the offices of the Campus Governors, the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President, the office of the University President and the Board of Trustees.