**Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2014-22**

**Title: Referendum to Increase the A.S. Fee**

**Sponsored by: Senator-At-Large Dominique Noble, Senator for the College of Engineering Tuan Nguyen, Senator for the College of the Arts Greg Ruiz, Senator for the College of the Arts Danny Hargreaves, Senator for the College of Natural Science & Mathematics Anh Tran, Senator for the College of Natural Science & Mathematics Rhea-Comfort Addo, Senator for the College of Education Christina Vasquez, Senator-At-Large Vanessa Mendoza, Senator for the College of Health & Human Services Allyson Roach, Senator for the College of Business Administration Allison Ernst, and Senator-At-Large Rain Gregorio**

**Date Submitted: November 26, 2013**

**Date Approved:**

**WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Senate of California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 35,000 students; and

**WHEREAS** it is the mission of ASI to provide the necessary resources for students to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom; and

**WHEREAS** despitethe recurring state and university budget crises over the past decade, ASI has done everything possible to maintain a consistent level of services to the student body of CSULB; and

**WHEREAS** despite budgetary constraints, ASI has actually increased funding for student organizations, club sports, scholarships and other student programs and activities; and

**WHEREAS** in order to maintain this level of service, ASI has had to defer maintenance on its facilities, freeze wages and salaries, and abstain from allocating funds for capital outlay and replacement projects; and

**WHEREAS** roughly 60% of the Associated Students’ operating budget is derived from a student body fee (AS fee) that has not been adjusted since 2001; and

**WHEREAS** the Associated Students’ operating budget allocates expenses to programs and services where over 80% of such expenses are fixed costs; and

**WHEREAS** the AS fee is static and is not currently indexed to the consumer price index, which results in the AS fee losing its value over time; and

**WHEREAS** according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics,the AS fee would need to be $60 today in order to have the same buying power as $44 in 2001; and

**WHEREAS** since 2001 ASI has cumulatively lost over $6 million of buying power due to the effects of inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, recent studies of the Soroptimist House and the Isabel Patterson Child Development Center alone have identified over $750,000 in facility repair, maintenance and renovation projects that need to be funded but cannot be funded under ASI’s existing budget; and

**WHEREAS** continuing to operate in this fashion in unsustainable, and ASI is reaching a point where it will no longer be able to sustain current operations and the upkeep of its facilities while maintaining the current level of funding for student programs and activities; and

**WHEREAS** a fee increase is necessary to maintain the fiscal viability of ASI’s operations; and

**WHEREAS** without additional revenue, ASI will have to make significant cuts to the services it provides to the students such as student organization grants, student travel funds, club sports funding, scholarships, childcare services, recycling services, and many other programs; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that upon passage, this resolution be forwarded to the CSULB Student Fee Advisory Committee requesting that a student fee referendum be placed on a special election ballot in February 2014; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the student body will decide with a simple majority if the ASI fee is to be raised; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the above request seek an AS fee increase of $16 to restore ASI’s loss of buying power since 2001 due to inflation; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that to ensure that the AS fee keeps pace with the rate of inflation, the request will include a provision that the fee be hereafter tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and be adjusted accordingly every three years; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that this resolution be distributed to Interim President Don Para, Interim Vice President Mary Anne Takemoto, Dean of Students Jeff Klaus, Director of Student Life and Development Brett Waterfield, and the 2013-2014 Associated Student body.

Jonathon Bolin, Vice President &

Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

 Date

John Haberstroh, Associated Students President Date

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