

SGA Resolution 3-14-S

A resolution in opposition of Tennessee State Senate Bills 1608 and 2493 concerning higher education institution use of funds for guest speakers.

- Whereas:** The Student Government Association at Middle Tennessee State University is the body of elected representatives to serve as the voice of the Student Body at Middle Tennessee State University and is a contributing organization to the welfare of the 23,000 member Student Body;
- Whereas:** The Student Government Association's Student Activity Fee is a vital funding source provided to the Student Organizations, Student Programming and Activities, Sports Clubs, Distinguished Lectures, and Student Government Association added to any student's tuition that exceeds 7 credit hours per semester;
- Whereas:** The Student Government Association has used the established Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee comprised of students, faculty, and administrators to allocate the funding provided to student organizations to host various events that fall within Middle Tennessee State University's Student Code of Conduct, State of Tennessee law, and any other policies established by Middle Tennessee State University;
- Whereas:** The Student Government Association allows any student organization in good standing with the University and applicable Headquarters to apply for the Student Activity Fee, regardless of organization membership numbers, to host events for the Student Body of Middle Tennessee State University;
- Whereas:** The State of Tennessee Senate Bill 1608 states that "At public institutions of higher education, student fees allocated for student organizations to pay speakers to speak at organization functions shall be divided and distributed proportionally based on membership to student organizations requesting such funding."
- Whereas:** The State of Tennessee Senate Bill 2493 states:
"Section 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:
49-7-157
(a) No institutional revenues from any source, including student activity fees, shall be used to engage and pay visiting or guest speakers for events at public institutions of higher education.
(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to visiting or guest faculty who are employed by a public institution of higher education to conduct classes or lectures as part of a scheduled class or classes for which students shall receive credit from the institution."
- Whereas:** If the State of Tennessee Senate Bills 1608 and 2493 are passed into law, the Student Activity Fee allocation for Distinguished Lectures will no longer be available to student organizations, Student Programming, or other university functions.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 76th CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1: The Student Government Association firmly opposes the 108th Tennessee General Assembly's Bill 1608 and 2493 or any further acts of legislation to reduce or interfere with the funding of Middle Tennessee State University Student Organizations, Distinguished Lectures, Sports Clubs, Student Programming and Activities, or the Student Government Association.

Section 2: The Student Government Association of Middle Tennessee State University finds that it is well within its rights to continue providing the established service of the Student Activity Fee to fund lectures for student organizations, regardless of organization membership.

Section 3: Upon favorable passage in the Student Government Association Senate, Middle Tennessee State University will join collectively with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville to oppose the 108th Tennessee General Assembly Bills 1608 and 2493 through student petition with this clause deleted.

Sponsors: Senator Brandon Loso, College of Liberal Arts

Co-Sponsor: Senator Brandi Martin, College of Education

Speaker of the Senate

SGA President

VP of Student Affairs