



# SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
of UW-STEVENS POINT

### LEGISLATIVE COVER SHEET

Resolution in Support of a Fully Funded Tuition Freeze & Funding the UW System

Legislative Title

Legislative Affairs Committee

Sponsoring Committee

#### Summary:

This piece of legislation urges state government to fund a tuition freeze & the UW-System.

Bill Number:

Author: President Koenig

Date Presented: 10-11-23

Date of Action: 10-20-23

#### Sponsoring Committee

3 / 0 / 0  
Y / N / A

Leo A. Koenig  
Chair's Signature

#### Rules Committee

    /     /      
Y / N / A

Chair's Signature

#### General Assembly

    /     /      
Y / N / A

Chair's Signature

#### Constitution Review Committee

*If the legislation is a bylaw amendment or constitutional amendment, it must pass through Constitution Review Committee*

    /     /      
Y / N / A

Chair's Signature

Presidential Signature | Date

If applicable, veto override:     /      
Y / N

APPROVED

VETOED

*Attach Explanation*

Speaker of the Senate signature, if applicable | Date

1       **Resolution in Support of a Fully Funded Tuition Freeze and Funding the UW System**

2       **Whereas:** College affordability and accessibility are critical in Wisconsin, allowing citizens to  
3 receive higher educations and move the Wisconsin Idea forward;

4       **Whereas:** From 2011-2016, the cumulative cuts from to the UW System’s budget has totaled  
5 \$795 million, an amount that has more than begun to limit universities’ ability to support  
6 students as well as their ability to attract and retain high caliber faculty and staff <sup>1</sup>;

7       **Whereas:** In 2023, the Wisconsin State Legislature cut another \$32 million dollars from the UW  
8 System’s biannual budget <sup>2</sup>;

9       **Whereas:** As the rate of inflation continues to increase, it is becoming increasingly difficult for  
10 the UW System to provide for its students and have influenced increasing tuition rates;

11       **Whereas:** Adjusted for inflation and removing costs previously not help in the UW System  
12 budget, Wisconsin now spends a historically low amount on the service of educating UW System  
13 students;

14       **Whereas:** The effects of the UW System budget cuts include reduced class offerings, limited  
15 support programs, increase class sizes, and reduced professor and student contact time, all  
16 resulting in increased time to earn a degree;

17       **Whereas:** The ending of the tuition freeze saw an immediate rise in tuition rates across the UW  
18 System with an average 4.9% increase of overall tuition across the system <sup>3</sup>;

19       **Whereas:** A tuition freeze would stop the large increases in tuition seen at the beginning of this  
20 academic year and will continue to happen for years to come;

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<sup>1</sup> Schaetzel, Luke. “Just How Much Has the UW System Lost since 2011?” *The Observatory*, 9 Nov. 2016, [observatory.journalism.wisc.edu/2016/11/09/just-how-much-has-the-uw-system-lost-since-2011/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CSince%202011%2C%20%24250%20million%20have,after%202011%20and%20not%20during](http://observatory.journalism.wisc.edu/2016/11/09/just-how-much-has-the-uw-system-lost-since-2011/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CSince%202011%2C%20%24250%20million%20have,after%202011%20and%20not%20during).

<sup>2</sup> Meyerhofer, Kelly. “Furloughs, Layoffs, Campus Closures: 5 Things to Know about University of Wisconsin System Finances.” *Journal Sentinel*, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 22 Aug. 2023, [www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2023/08/22/what-to-know-about-university-of-wisconsin-system-budget-for-2023-24/70645598007/](http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2023/08/22/what-to-know-about-university-of-wisconsin-system-budget-for-2023-24/70645598007/).

<sup>3</sup> “Tuition Increases for In-State UW Students for the First Time in 10 Years.” *Tuition Increases for In-State UW Students*, [spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2023/03/30/uw-system-tuition-increase-in-state-wisconsin-students#:~:text=Including%20other%20fee%20increases%2C%20the,tuition%20go%20up%20by%20%24468](http://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2023/03/30/uw-system-tuition-increase-in-state-wisconsin-students#:~:text=Including%20other%20fee%20increases%2C%20the,tuition%20go%20up%20by%20%24468). Accessed 29 Sept. 2023.

21 **Whereas:** If a tuition freeze was introduced, a substantial state funding increase over the next  
22 biannual budget would be needed to meet the needs of the UW System, as well as the amount  
23 need to offset any tuition cuts;

24 **Whereas:** An increase in funding to the UW System is necessary in order to meet the needs of  
25 the ever-developing Wisconsin workforce, raise awareness of high-demand fields, and to keep  
26 Wisconsin students in Wisconsin;

27 **Therefore be it resolved:** The Student Government Association of the University of Wisconsin-  
28 Stevens Point asks the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance, the Wisconsin Assembly, the  
29 Wisconsin State Senate to approve an increase in funding for the UW System in the 2025-2027  
30 biannual budget;

31 **Therefore be it further resolved:** The Student Government Association of the University of  
32 Wisconsin-Stevens Point asks the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance, the Wisconsin  
33 Assembly, the Wisconsin State Senate to approve a tuition freeze along with increase funding to  
34 the UW System in order to offset the increase between tuition revenue and system costs.

35 **Therefore be it finally resolved:** That upon passage, this resolution be forwarded to the  
36 Wisconsin Governor Evers, Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Vos, Wisconsin Assembly Speaker  
37 Pro Tempore Petersen, Wisconsin Majority Leader August, Wisconsin Minority Leader  
38 Neubauer, Wisconsin Senate President Kapenga, Wisconsin Senate President Pro Tempore:  
39 Testin, Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader LeMahieu, Wisconsin Senate Minority Leader Agard,  
40 University of Wisconsin System President Rothman, University of Wisconsin Board of Regents  
41 President Walsh, Student Government Association Student Body President Koenig, Student  
42 Government Association Student Body Vice-President Authement, Student Government  
43 Association Speaker of the Senate Rogers, Student Government Association Executive Director  
44 Cronce, Student Government Association Budget Director Ehmler, Student Government  
45 Association Advisor Zsido, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Chancellor Gibson,  
46 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Chief of Staff Manzke, University of Wisconsin-Stevens  
47 Point Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Cornell-Swanson, University of  
48 Wisconsin-Stevens Point Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs Gandhi, University of Wisconsin-  
49 Stevens Point Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Thompson, Wisconsin State Representative  
50 Shankland, Wisconsin State Senator Testin, Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance Members.

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52 **Authors:** President Koenig

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54 **Sponsor:** Senator Graham Zdrodowski and Legislative Affairs director Leo Angel Rivera-  
55 Pacheco

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57 **Sponsoring Committee:** Legislative Affairs Committee