



COUNCIL OF COMMONWEALTH STUDENT GOVERNMENTS
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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C.R. 23.24.23
Reconsideration of 19 Credit Tuition Surcharge

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Sponsors: Names

- Whereas,* *The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) represents the concerns of the students attending the campus in matters of a University-wide nature,*
- Whereas,* Recognize the trustee's decision to implement the 19 credit tuition surcharge, starting back in the fall semester of 2023, and a decision that would implement additional charges for all credit hours past 19, per semester.
- Whereas,* These charges, according to research conducted by UPUA, in the 2023-2024 year will range from \$820 to \$1,950 per credit at University park. Then, \$573 to \$1,246 per credit at the Commonwealth Campuses for each additional credit past the 19 credit limit. These ranges see fluctuation due to a student's class standing, academic program, and residency status.
- Whereas,* The current policy also prevents course registration past the 19 credit limit until the beginning of each semester, and will see separate billing, issued by the Bursar. Noting a notification distributed to the student prior to course registration, within LionPATH, having the student acknowledge the tuition surcharge.
- Whereas,* Implications of the surcharge were as follows: “[The System] is designed to encourage students to take all necessary credits each semester to graduate in four years” and charging additional tuition beyond 19 credits ... balances our desire to focus on affordability with the far distribution of costs.” As remarked by Jeff Adams, Interim Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education.
- Whereas,* However, fall of 2022, saw 1,760 undergraduates enrolled in more than 19 credits during the semester, and this policy has effects across the University. Data presented at the ACUE showed 2.2% of all students were projected to be impacted. Then, even further, other subsets of categorization were expected to see impacts (e.g. 7.7% of Schreyer Honors Students)

Whereas, This has also shown an impact onto low-income students (not intended to be primarily impacted by the surcharge, according to the Office of Undergraduate Education). The office directs those students to seek external support from respective deans of their colleges, scholarship availabilities, or emergency funding. Assets, that in the current economic climate of Penn State, are not existent or lack in funding. Therefore creating instances of delaying academic progress, and in some cases, graduation.

Whereas, Established academic programs exist within the University that recommend, via the academic plan, exceeding 19 credits. Of which, there is no alternative to the tuition surcharge. Hindering Students who desire to catch up in their degree track or preventing agility in a degree, and progressing more quickly through an academic career.

Whereas, The surcharge disincentivizes the pursuit of minors or other academic programs. Especially in the instances of semester plans, of which a large number fall into this group, require 16-18 credits per semester to stay on track for graduation.

Whereas, In the instance of a student pursuing research studies, this disincentivizes providing their work with academic credit. Noting, as well, students who are required to pursue labs that may push them above a typical credit load, further inhibiting a student.

Be it resolved, *The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments supports the incorporation of Penn State reconsidering the credit surcharge, that once was not present, as it impacts students in a state of financial hardship, prevents degree acceleration, pursuit of additional academic opportunities, and inhibits students who are behind to get back on track after switching majors, transferring, or dropping classes. This is a collective desire from the fellow student government associations within Penn State.*

Respectfully,

Fabian Vantassell

Council Action

Vote 22:4:0 Pass: X Fail: Postponed:

Presidential Action

Approved: X Veto: Date: 4/23/2024



CCSG President - Elise DuFour