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Fair Tuition Act

Legislation 1920.19

Sponsored by: Daniel Elliott, Gigi Torres Santiago, Omar Sadek, and Niko Ellison

IN THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION OF ROLLINS COLLEGE

3/4/2020

An Act

To implement a tuition freeze policy for Rollins College students.

WHEREAS the tuition rate for Rollins College is planned to increase by \$2,016 dollars;

WHEREAS annual tuition for Rollins College increased by \$6,940 from 2015 to 2019 according to the Sandspur, an over 16 percent increase over four years;

WHEREAS annual tuition has increased by over \$30,000 since 1999, approximately \$8,000 more than increase in cost as adjusted for inflation;

WHEREAS scholarships do not increase each year based on increases in tuition rates;

WHEREAS many students, especially those with lower-income backgrounds, rely on scholarship funds to pay for their education and an over \$2,000 increase each year can be crippling;

WHEREAS federal and state legislation has been enacted or pushed for to apply tuition freezes for public schools and access to how much an education will cost for a degree in total, such as the Right to Know Before you Go Act sponsored by U.S. Senators Ron Wyden of Oregon and Marco Rubio of Florida, and tuition freeze laws in the States of Arizona, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Texas, and Washington;

WHEREAS over seventy public and private colleges and universities have decided independently to lock tuition over four years;

WHEREAS many members of Administration are in support of a tuition freeze policy:

Now, therefore,

Be it Hereby Resolved, the Student Government Association of Rollins College will:

- (1) Advocate for a tuition freeze policy where the rate at which students pay tuition as an incoming student does not change over the course of their undergraduate studies at Rollins College and is instead locked in or “frozen,” and is returned to the rate from current students’ first academic year;*
- (2) Work with the Rollins College Department of Finance and the Board of Trustees during the meetings regarding annual tuition rates taking place from July to October in order to enact clause one of this bill; and,*
- (3) Negotiate with the Department of Finance on the method of implementing clause one of this bill, including but not limited to:*
 - a. Implementing spending cuts to the annual budget;*
 - b. Investing more in ways to generate more income and donations to the College;*
 - c. Increasing the tuition at a higher rate each year for incoming students while keeping the rates the same for returning students; and,*
 - d. Utilizing projected annual costs over four years to find the average tuition rate needed over that period of time for incoming students.*