



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

90th Session, 2022-2023

AN ACT TO INTRODUCE STUDENT MEDIA FEE AS A BALLOT QUESTION

Bill Number: 22

Authored By: Senator Gonzalez-Aguirre

Sponsored By: 2022-2023 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, the University Administrative Manual states student publications are to be given sufficient editorial freedom and financial autonomy provided by the university to ensure the value they create stays alive and unabridged;

Whereas, the role of Student Media is to create an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and of intellectual exploration on campus, it serves as a line of communication to express student concerns, opinions and ideas to administration, campus and the world at large;

Whereas, the Nevada Sagebrush is one of the oldest student run newspapers in the nation being a consistent voice since 1893, the newspaper keeps the university community informed while also providing you with the perfect platform to reach a diverse community of students, their parents and the faculty of the university;

Whereas, Insight Magazine is the newest media on campus, they are a campus lifestyle magazine written by students for students allowing for artistic expression and helping students master their craft through opportunities to develop their skills through print and web mediums;

Whereas, Brushfire Literature & Arts Journal is the university's student-run literature and arts publication. Brushfire strives to showcase the work of UNR students, local artists, and creatives in a semiannual published format;

Whereas, Wolf Pack Radio is a student-run, nonprofit radio station running for more than a decade, The station gives university students a media outlet to express themselves, from music to shows, to a wide audience comprising of listeners and readers worldwide and on campus;

Whereas, the New York Times has reported over 360 newspapers having closed since the start of the pandemic which saw 23% of existing printing presses closing down during 2020;

Whereas, this affects The Sagebrush as their local printing press has closed down disrupting flow of income through printed ad space;

Whereas, the Sagebrush was the only self-sustaining student media with printed ad revenue, the loss of this profit has taken a toll to their budget that will have the legacy student media nonexistent in two years minimum if a solution is not found;

Whereas, Insight Magazine, Wolfpack Radio and Brushfire are funded within ASUN budget, their budgets have been placed in danger as of recent when approving the yearly budget;

Whereas, on a May 27th, 2022, committee meeting, discussion was held briefly that shows the dangers of a possible future where student media budgets could be jeopardized;

Whereas, the current budget of most student media organizations are tied to ASUN and changes yearly, this could lead to having student media in a reduced or unstable budget situation to be run efficiently;

Whereas, the following Student Media Advisory Board meeting on June 10th had public comment of twelve different individuals speaking out in support of Brushfire by speaking on the national recognition, community connection on campus and off as well as the safe space created to embrace the arts within Brushfire's accomplishments since being established in 1950;

Whereas, since the rise of the online trend, nearly half of higher education establishments in the U.S. have moved to a student media fee to cover their budgets and during the pandemic we saw a majority move to student fees to save their college student media organizations;

Whereas, the university newspaper for UNLV themselves are pushing for a student fee to pass this school year in order to "continue operating as usual, with the added bonus of being able to recruit and retain students for positions that have fallen by the wayside over the years because of funding cuts.";

Whereas, in order to preserve the four student medias and help them recover and grow after the pandemic hobbled their printing capabilities, staffing requirements and university awareness, a student fee will be introduced on the ballot for voting on a sixty-seven cent per credit fee that will cover the student media budget for The Sagebrush, Insight Magazine, Brushfire Arts & Literature Journal and Wolfpack Radio;

Whereas, the encouragement and protection of these organizations is imperative to build the university's culture and expression of ideas as one that is Nevada strong;

Be it enacted, A ballot question seeking the approval of the voters shall appear on the ballot for the 2023 General Elections as follows: "Shall the Senate of the Associated Students be granted the authority to add a student media fee that will cover the budget for The Sagebrush, Insight Magazine, Brushfire Arts & Literature Journal and Wolfpack Radio at .67 cents per credit taken.

Yes ___ No ___.";

Be it further enacted, This new student media budget will be supervised and approved by the ASUN coordinator of Student Publications and Marketing and reviewed by the ASUN Committee on Budget & Finance;

Adopted in Senate on February 15th, 2023

Attest:

Andrew Thompson, Speaker of the Senate

Dionne Stanfill, President of the Associated Students

I certify that this Act originated in the Senate.

Wyatt Layland, Senate Secretary