

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Sponsor(s): Chair Bryan, Chief Harricharran, Sen. Vicklund

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Supporting the Creation of a Transit Fee

Whereas, the University of Houston is in a state of constant expansion;

Whereas, "Transit Fee" is defined as a compulsory student fee levied each Fall, Spring, and Summer, which would go towards financing the Parking and Transportation Department's shuttle service;

Whereas, the constant expansion of the University of Houston increases the demand for parking on campus;

Whereas, this increase in demand for parking is being heard by the University of Houston administration;

Whereas, the University of Houston currently has plans for four additional parking garage projects, with the first of the four opening in Spring of 2019;

Whereas, the financing for these garages comes from the Auxiliary Services department at the University of Houston;

Whereas, Auxiliary Services, currently, receives no tuition or student fee dollars to sustain itself;

Whereas, the Parking and Transportation Department relies heavily on parking permit revenue to sustain itself;

Whereas, the parking expansion must happen in order to keep up with increasing enrollment;

Whereas, the additional parking garages would greatly improve parking congestion on campus;

Whereas, given the necessity of the garages, and the planned expansions, Auxiliary services is required by designation to increase parking rates rapidly to cover the debt service expenses associated with the new facilities, to the detriment of many student's bank accounts;

Whereas, the shuttle service is a fully utilized campus service;

Whereas, the state of Texas specifically disallows Auxiliary Services from utilizing student fees excluding in the case of a University shuttle service due to the public utilization of said service;

Whereas, the shuttle service currently accounts for approximately 2.7 million dollars in expenses for the Parking and Transportation Department;

Whereas, a transit fee would significantly lower the rate of parking permit increases and fundamentally shift the pressure on the Parking and Transportation Department's funding scheme in a positive, impactful way.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the 55th Student Government supports the creation of a compulsory fee which would go towards the Parking and Transportation Department;

Be it further resolved, that this fee should be used exclusively to off-set the costs associated with the University of Houston's shuttle service and subsidized alternative transportation options for students;

Be it further resolved, that all monetary savings as a result of any transit fee, within the Parking and Transportation Department, should be entirely shifted towards reducing the inflation of Student-purchased parking permits;

Be it further resolved, that faculty and staff permit rates be unaffected by the newly established student fee.



Cameron Barrett
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 9/5/18



Andrew Trinh
Speaker of Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 9/5/18

APPROVED