

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: UB-60001

Date introduced: September 6th, 2024

Author(s): Pres. Rizk, Chair Ortega

Sponsor(s): Vice Pres. Luc, Speaker Wilson, Chief of Staff Haque, Dir. Underwood, Dir. McGrew, Dir. Garcia, Speaker Pro-Tempore Kadi, Chair Mason, Chair Parris, Chair Hoxha, Chair Szell, Sen. Rizk, Sen. McClure

Committee: Administration and Finance

Draft: Final Read

The \$10 Student Minimum Wage Act

Whereas, the Student Government Association is dedicated to improving the student worker experience on campus;

Whereas, the student worker minimum wage has plateaued at \$8.00 since 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic¹;

Whereas, the poverty line for an individual is established to be at an annual income of \$14,580, average income of student at UH and low economic background²;

Whereas, inflation rates peaked at 9.1% during the COVID-19 pandemic making it more difficult to survive on \$8.00/hr³;

Whereas, minimum wage has increased for staff without student increases following for 4 years⁴;

¹ https://www.uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/56/_passed/university-bills/ub-56002.pdf

² <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/federal-poverty-guidelines>

³ <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2022/consumer-prices-up-9-1-percent-over-the-year-ended-june-2022-largest-increase-in-40-years.htm>

⁴ <https://uh.edu/infotech/services/e-comm/official-email/view.php?4>
sendit=aHR0cHM6Ly9jbG91ZGFwcHMudWguZWR1L3NlbnRpdC93L0w2WmtrMldqa2tvY0lXMmNyUUZ
aNWcvWW5NUVVXMVZMVWNqTnJJRDVtMHpQQS9oSnlmTDg5MjFjFEczl0SmdKOUhXVzRBOFE=

Whereas, students working on campus will lead to long-term benefit for the university in student retention, graduation rate, and money spent at the university in order to sustain university services which better the student experience;

Whereas, to keep the University running smoothly, student workers need to be valued and respected through monetary compensation;

Whereas, student workers are responsible for leading and directing major aspects of campus life including Homecoming, Frontier Fiesta, Student Programming Board, Council for Cultural Activities, Metropolitan Volunteer Program, the Center for Student Media, and the Student Government Association;

Whereas, the 55th and 56th Administration of the Student Government Association advocated to increase the minimum wage for student workers to \$9.00 on campus⁵;

Whereas, competitive on-campus wages allow students to gain useful career skills while eliminating additional travel expenses and take advantage of flexible schedules;

Whereas, the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect the workforce and economy today.

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

That the minimum hourly rate for student employees will be set at \$10 beginning with student employees hired effective for the Fall 2023 semester.

Be it further enacted, the Division of Administration and Finance will support the Student Government Association's initiative by holding University departments accountable to the \$10 standard;

Be it further enacted, each department will review and address potential wage compression in their division.

⁵ <https://twitter.com/studentsuniteuh/status/1099083284699643904/photo/1>

Benjamin Rizk

Benjamin Rizk
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 11-29-2023

APPROVED

Sophina Wilson

Speaker Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 11-29-2023

