

BILL#:

TITLE: **Bill to Implement an Undergraduate Research Fee**

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DATE:

WHEREAS the endeavors in research and creative achievement of undergraduate students are vital to their edification and professional experience,

WHEREAS research achievements by undergraduate students are essential to the function and success of the University of Tennessee, bearing in mind the aspiration of the University of Tennessee to attain Top 25 Public Research Institution status,

WHEREAS there currently exists a lack of financial support for undergraduate research, particularly in the ability of undergraduates to be engaged in research activities during the summer and to attend and present at professional conferences,

Be it hereby resolved that this body recommends the addition of a \$5 fee per semester to the tuition of every student entering the University of Tennessee in or after the fall of 2015 that shall be directed to the Office of Undergraduate Research. These funds shall be collected for the explicit purpose of funding the Undergraduate Summer Research Internship program and providing travel grants to undergraduates who wish to attend and present at a conference for research or creative achievement recognized and approved by the Office of Undergraduate Research. No more than 25 percent of the collected funds shall be directed towards travel grants. These grants must be available to all undergraduate students who apply and are approved by the Office of Undergraduate Research, regardless of discipline. All remaining funds shall be directed towards increasing the number of and stipend of undergraduate summer research internships thereby directly encouraging undergraduate students to participate in undergraduate research at the University of Tennessee.