



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

OF CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

5032 Forbes Ave, UC Suite 103, Box 46 | student-senate@andrew.cmu.edu | cmu.edu/senate

Contact: Aaron Gross
Phone: (301)-633-2299
E-mail: amgross@andrew.cmu.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDENTS OPPOSE MAYOR'S PROPOSAL TO TAX COLLEGE STUDENTS

Carnegie Mellon's Student Senate Passes Resolution Against Tax

Carnegie Mellon's Undergraduate Student Senate voted unanimously Thursday, November 12th, to pass a resolution strongly opposing Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's proposed "Post-Secondary Education Tax," which seeks to levy a 1% tuition tax on all college students learning in the City of Pittsburgh. Before the vote was taken, students spoke about their personal opposition to the tax, citing concerns that the tax creates a disincentive for higher education in the city and imposes an unfair additional burden on students, who by and large do not have the resources to pay this additional tax.

Senators also addressed students' continued support to the City of Pittsburgh, including paying various city taxes, supporting local business, and volunteering to serve the greater Pittsburgh community. Carnegie Mellon students alone logged over 117,000 hours of community service in the past year¹, and both Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh were named Top 25 "Best Neighbors" for their economic and social impact on the City of Pittsburgh in the 2009 study, "Saviors of our Cities," a poll conducted by Evan S. Dobbelle, president of Westfield State College in Westfield, Massachusetts. Carnegie Mellon students alone logged over 117,000 hours of community service in the past year, and the university's footprint in the Pittsburgh community is extraordinarily large.

Student senators and other students will be actively lobbying members of the City Council to vote against the tax proposal, and Carnegie Mellon's Student Government will work together with students from other Pittsburgh colleges and professional schools to educate Council members and the Mayor about the existing contributions of students to the City of Pittsburgh and the true repercussions of the proposed tax for students.

Carnegie Mellon's Undergraduate Student Senate, part of Carnegie Mellon's Student Government, serves as the duly elected representative arm of all undergraduate students at Carnegie Mellon University.

###

For more information about this resolution or to view the full text of the resolution as passed, please visit <http://www.cmu.edu/senate> or e-mail student-senate@andrew.cmu.edu.

¹ The Tartan: City proposes "fair share tax" on tuitions: <http://thetartan.org/2009/11/16/news/tax>