Whereas in an email sent on February 2, 2015 entitled “Report on the recent Board of Trustee meetings (January 22-24),” President Liebowitz said that “it is likely that we will need to increase tuition and room and board fees in excess of the CPI+1 percentage point formula we have been using since 2009-10,”

Whereas since the CPI+1 plan for tuition increases was put in place following the 2009-10 academic year,\(^1\)

Whereas for the 2014-2015 Academic Year the Board of Trustees acted against President Liebowitz’s 2010 promise “to limit comprehensive fee increases at the College to “CPI + 1”\(^{ii}\) by increasing tuition by 2.5% but room and board by 4.00%, leading to a 2.94% increase in the Comprehensive Fee even though CPI was only 1.5%, establishing a precedent for comprehensive fee increases beyond CPI+1 without student input,

Whereas the Board of Trustees and College Administration have been criticized by the student body this academic year for not giving the students an active enough voice in the decisions affecting the future of the College,

Whereas the Comprehensive Fee Committee previously served as the students’ voice on proposed increases in the Comprehensive Fee but fell into disuse because of the Administration’s commitment to keep increases in the comprehensive fee pegged to the rate of inflation (CPI),

Whereas F2014-SB11, “Bylaws Amendment: Procedural and Stylistic Overhaul of SGA Bylaws” officially removed the Student Government Association’s Comprehensive Fee Committee from the Bylaws, and, with its elimination, the student body has lost an important mechanism to express its voice on this issue,\(^{iii}\)

Whereas, while students on financial aid will not be affected by increases in the Comprehensive Fee, according to the 2015 SGA Student Life Survey, 52.23% of students do not receive financial aid from the College or other non-family sources and will be significantly affected by any changes in the Comprehensive Fee,
Whereas the fact that Middlebury is now ranked 18th among our peer group of 21 schools in terms of the affordability of attendance is used as an explanation for tuition increases,

Whereas “no decisions on our fee for next year have been made yet, and the board will be discussing this subject more in the months ahead,” meaning that there is still time for the student body and Student Government Association to get involved,

Therefore, be it resolved…

That the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body, oppose any Board of Trustees plan to increase tuition beyond ‘CPI+1’ if that plan does not include students in the decision-making process.

That the Student Government Association recommends the Board of Trustees find new ways to make the cost of attendance more affordable.

That the Student Government Association recommends the Board of Trustees consult the student body on any tuition increases beyond CPI+1 either by working with a new Comprehensive Fee Committee or some other representative body of students.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION.
Originally Proposed

Josh Berlowitz, Junior Senator
Karina Toy, Sophomore Senator

February 15, 2015
Senator de Toledo: Motion to table S2015-SB1.
Senator Gerstenschlager: Seconded.
Ayes: Proxy Gilbert, Senator Gerstenschlager, Senator Gogineni, Senator Medina, Proxy Allis, Senator Sohn, Senator Brook, Senator Vaughan, Senator Fisher, Senator de Toledo, Co-Chair Bogin
Nays: Speaker Brady
Abstentions: Senator Jahan, Senator Berlowitz, Senator Toy, Senator Hussein
11-1-4
S2015-SB1 tabled.

February 22, 2015
Senator Toy: Motion to end discussion and vote on S2015-SB1.
Senator Gerstenschlager: Seconded.
All aye.
Motion passes.

Vote on S2015-SB1.
Ayes: President Custer, Senator Jahan, Senator Gerstenschlager, Senator Gogineni,
Senator Berlowitz, Senator Toy, Senator Allis, Senator Brook, Senator Vaughan, Senator Hussein, Senator Edwards, Co-Chair Bogin
Nays: Senator Medina, Senator Fisher
Abstentions: Proxy Poole (for Senator Sohn), Senator de Toledo, Speaker Brady
12-2-3
S2015-SB1 passes.

---

i “Middlebury approves 3.4 percent increase in comprehensive fee,” *Middlebury Newsroom*, April 8, 2010,

ii Ron Liebowitz, “CPI+1,” *Ron on Middlebury*, March 2, 2010,
http://sites.middlebury.edu/rononmiddlebury/2010/03/02/cpi-1/ and Ry Rivard,

iii See Gale Berninghausen, “Committee Recommends Fee Hike,” *Middlebury Campus*,
“Student committee recommends new $51,622 comprehensive fee,” *Middlebury Campus*, February 26, 2009,
http://middleburycampus.com/article/student-committee-recommends-new-51622-comprehensive-fee/ for examples on how the Comprehensive Fee Committee worked in the years before the CPI+1 initiative.