WESTERN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

A bill to adopt Resolution 03-01 from the Fall 2019 United Student Government Conference

Bill #:1920-01

Author: Jacobi Wright, Chief of Finance & Operations/Delegation Leader

Co-sponsors: Colton Lind, Allocations Chair/Delegate

WHEREAS, the fifteen public universities within the State of Michigan were invited to Saginaw Valley State University for the Fall 2019 United Student Governments Conference; and

WHEREAS, we believe a successful system of higher education institutions can only exist when the state appropriates adequate and equitable funding to colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 03-01, entitled "A resolution to support the creation of the Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding (SCHEF)" was introduced in Legislative Session #3, titled "Funding," and passed onto the United Legislative Session for adoption; and

WHEREAS, delegations from 14 of the 15 public universities in Michigan were present with a consensus there was a need for action regarding higher education funding on our part so, Resolution 03-01 was created to increase communication and collaboration between institutions while preserving the sovereignty of participating student governments; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 03-01 seeks to create the Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding (SCHEF), an interuniversity coalition dedicated to higher education funding which aims to ensure continuing action on unified strategic goals of participating student governments in regards to higher education funding; and

WHEREAS, the Western Student Association must aid in lobbying state legislators to expediently slow and reverse the trend of the growing cost of attendance through the legitimacy of this alliance; and

WHEREAS, Appendix A below displays Resolution 03-01, which is up for adoption; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 03-01 was adopted at the United Legislative Session by a vote of 12 in the affirmative, 1 against, and 1 abstention; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 07-03 has been referred by the United Legislative Session to the future SCHEF to take action once formed; and

WHEREAS, the student governments of Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan – Flint, Grand Valley State University, have already ratified SCHEF at their institutions making them a part of SCHEF;

WHEREAS, the student government of Western Michigan University agree with the resolution that was passed at the United student government conference and recognize the importance of advocating for higher educational funding; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western Student Association of Western Michigan University ratify Resolution 03-01 from the Fall 2019 USG Conference, made visible in Appendix A; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rules, Bylaws, and Administration Chairs, Political Affairs Chair, with the remainder of the presidential cabinet, work to amend the current governing documents of the Western Student Association to coordinate the duties and obligations of our portion of this joint coalition of Michigan’s Public Universities.
Appendix A: Resolution 03-01 from the USG Conference

Resolution 03-01

SPONSORED BY: University of Michigan – Flint, Grand Valley State, Eastern Michigan, Saginaw Valley State, Wayne State, Western Michigan

A RESOLUTION TO: SUPPORT THE CREATION OF THE STUDENT COALITION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING (SCHEF)

Whereas, student governments from across the state of Michigan convened for the United Student Governments of Michigan Conference at Saginaw Valley State University on November 9, 2019; and

Whereas, we believe a successful system of higher education institutions can only exist when the state appropriates adequate and equitable funding to Colleges and Universities; and

Whereas, communication and collaboration between universities increases the chance of the Michigan State Government being responsive to the needs of students at Higher Education Institutions; and

Whereas, creating a task force and/or position within Student Governments committed to the State Funding Project would ensure continuing action on lobbying goals that incorporate the unique needs of each Higher Education Institution; now therefore be it

Resolved, the student government representatives in attendance demand the State of Michigan allocate more appropriate funding to Higher Education Institutions so that they can function without draining the limited financial resources of Michigan students; and

Resolved, that an interuniversity coalition be established and will be called the Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding (SCHEF); and

Resolved, the coalition will be made up of 1-2 representatives from each participating Higher Education Institution, and shall consistently meet on a monthly basis further established by the coalition; and

Resolved, meetings will occur in person once per academic year and monthly via an electronic platform; and

Resolved, in adopting this resolution, delegates in attendance agree that Director Upton from the University of Michigan-Flint and Vice President of External Affairs Pagel from Grand Valley State University will serve as interim co-chairs of SCHEF for the duration of Fall 2019; and

Resolved, starting in Winter 2020, the coalition will elect a member at the beginning of each semester to serve as Chair for the duration of that semester; and
Resolved, that all ratifying Higher Education Institutions shall create either a position or task force within their own Student Governing Bodies that focuses on Higher Education funding from the State of Michigan; and

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, the Michigan Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Higher Education, each member of the Michigan state legislature with a public university located in their district, and the president of the public universities that are present and voting at the United Legislative Session.

Placed on the floor on November 9th, 2019 and is ADOPTED

with a vote of _12_ in the affirmative, _1_ in the negative, and _1_ abstentions.

AFFIRMATIVE: Central Michigan University Eastern Michigan University
            Grand Valley State University Michigan State University
            Michigan Technological University Northern Michigan University
            Saginaw Valley State University University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
            University of Michigan-Dearborn University of Michigan-Flint
            Wayne State University Western Michigan University

NEGATIVE: Lake Superior State University

ABSTENTIONS: Oakland University

ABSENT: Ferris State University