GOVERNING CHARTER
OF THE
STUDENT COALITION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of the fifteen public four-year higher education institutions in the State of Michigan, do hereby constitute the Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding in order to promote, defend and advocate for higher education funding in the state of Michigan.

ARTICLE I - NAME

1. The official name of this organization shall be the Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding, hereinafter referred to as SCHEF.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE & MEMBERSHIP

1. The Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding is an independent advocacy group composed of representatives from each of the fifteen public, four-year, higher education institutions within the State of Michigan, with the goal of advocating for higher education funding.
2. Each of the fifteen public universities shall be permitted to join openly, and shall be deemed members by action of their individual student government.
3. Voting members may withdraw from membership upon an action of their individual student government and notification of such action to the chair.
4. Each university shall have one (1) vote in all questions and actions of the coalition.
5. In the event that a university has more than one (1) active student government (e.g. an undergraduate and graduate student government) they shall still only have one (1) vote and shall form a consensus on their university’s representation to the coalition by their own processes.

ARTICLE III – AUTHORITY

1. All power vested in this document shall be derived from each member university with delegates on the Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding.
2. The Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding shall have the authority to speak and act on behalf of the coalition if such action is approved by the governing board of the coalition.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNING BOARD

1. The governing board shall have all rights to establish collective positions of the coalition.
2. Meetings of the governing board shall consist of delegates from each member institution. Each institution shall appoint delegates according to their own processes and/or customs.
3. At an in-person session of the governing board, each university shall have a maximum of two (2) delegates on the floor.
4. Each university shall have one (1) vote in all questions before the governing board.
5. All actions taken by the governing board, which require action by the constituent student governments, shall be subject to the approval of the individual, constituent student governments.
6. All actions taken by the governing board, shall upon a vote, include the member institutions voting in the affirmative, against, and abstaining.
7. The governing board shall be permitted to meet via electronic means, as the board sees fit.
8. All delegations shall be permitted to participate at all meetings of the governing board by electronic means.
9. All substantive votes of the governing board shall have the ayes and nays recorded, and shall be taken by means (i.e. roll call, open electronic ballot) in which this principle shall be accurately exercised and so does not disenfranchise the equal voice of those institutions participating by electronic means.

10. All substantive votes, shall require a majority of members of the coalition to pass, unless a supermajority is prescribed in this document.

11. All procedural votes shall require such a number of votes prescribed in Robert’s Rules of Order out of the number of institutions present at such meeting.

12. All meetings of the governing board shall be run according to the latest version of Robert’s Rules of Order.

13. The clerk shall take minutes at all sessions of the governing board. Shall the clerk be absent at a session of the board, the chair, with the consent of the board, shall appoint another member as acting clerk.

14. All sessions of the governing board shall include the approval of the minutes from any previous sessions held more than seven (7) days preceding.

15. Upon the petition of the majority of member institutions, the coalition shall be convened to meet at the time and date specified.

**ARTICLE V. LEADERSHIP**

1. The coalition shall be led by one (1) chair, one (1) vice-chair, and one (1) clerk.
   a. These members of leadership shall be elected each May at a formal session of the governing board to serve a term through the time of the next election (the next May).

2. Members of leadership may be removed upon the vote of three-fourths of member institutions.

3. Shall the chair be removed, or resign, the vice-chair shall take the chairship. All other positions, in case of vacancy, shall be re-elected at the next meeting of the coalition.

4. The chair shall:
   a. have the power to call meetings of the coalition.
   b. preside over all meetings.
   c. certify all actions and votes taken by the board.
   d. provide leadership to coordinate member institutions to participate in advocacy.

5. The vice-chair shall:
   a. act in place of the chair in all matters where the chair is temporarily unable to fulfill their obligations.
      i. Should the chair and vice-chair be absent, the board shall elect a member as acting chair to preside over the board.
   b. shall administrate and coordinate communication between member institutions.

6. The clerk shall:
   a. record the minutes for all formal proceedings of meetings and send a copy of the minutes and all formal action voted upon to constituent members within ten (10) days of such meeting.
   b. send a regularly scheduled update of all activity ongoing within the coalition to constituent members.
   c. collect, retain, and organize documents of the organization, including archives.

**ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**

1. Dues, or the compulsory collection of money, from individual student governments, shall be prohibited.

2. All actions taken by the governing board, which require financial support, shall be subject to the voluntary contributions of individual student governments or independent stakeholders.

**ARTICLE VII. INTERNAL POLICY MAKING**

1. Insofar as it does not contradict this document, the governing board shall be permitted to create internal policy upon the consent of a majority of voting members.

**ARTICLE VIII. LIBERTY FROM DISCRIMINATION**
1. The Student Coalition for Higher Education Funding will not discriminate because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, physical or mental ability, political identification, gender identification, sexual identity, or sexual orientation. The governing board shall have the power to create internal policy to expand, but not diminish, these protections.

ARTICLE IX. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

1. Ratification of this document shall be required for non-signatories to gain voting membership.
2. All amendments to this document shall be approved through a two-thirds vote of the governing board and ratification by the individual student governments of three-fourths of member institutions.