

Joint Resolution to Address the Higher Education Budget Crisis

WHEREAS, Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) are the recognized governing and representative bodies of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC);

WHEREAS, undergraduate, graduate, and professional students of SIUC have expressed concern with the lack of a higher education budget in the State of Illinois;

WHEREAS, GPSC and USG have taken affirmative actions to express these concerns to legislative leaders via attending community meetings and hosting state senators for a town hall meeting;

WHEREAS, the lack of a budget supporting higher education has led undergraduate students at SIUC to face the prospect of paying the university for MAP Grants offered by the State of Illinois;

WHEREAS, the lack of a budget supporting higher education could lead to the possible loss of accreditation for the SIU School of Law;

WHEREAS, the lack of a budget supporting higher education has contributed to a decrease in the number of graduate school applications;

WHEREAS, the lack of a budget supporting higher education has significantly impacted the retention of graduate students who depend on graduate assistantships;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that GPSC and USG will work collectively to demand that our governor and legislative leaders craft a solution that provides financial certainty to institutions of higher education across the state including SIUC;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSC and USG will form a joint task force to organize and coordinate mass actions locally and across the state to pressure the governor and legislative leaders to pass a budget that ensures students at SIUC have access to quality higher education;

BE IT ALSO RESOVLED that GPSC and USG will hold elected state representatives accountable for the lack of action regarding the funding of higher education in the State of Illinois.