



<b>Resolution Number:</b>	<b>F-20-03</b>	<b>Sponsored By:</b>	Vice President Eric Siegrist
<b>Introduced On:</b>	<b>3 December 2020</b>		
<b>Voted On:</b>	<b>3 December 2020</b>		
<b>Result:</b>	<b>Passed</b>		
<b>Vote Count:</b>	<b>36-0-1</b>		

**A RESOLUTION TO:** Urge Grand Valley State University to Forgo a Tuition Increase for the Academic Year 2021-2022

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**Recognizing**, Grand Valley State University’s values statement on inclusiveness, “The University is committed to strengthening our living, learning, and working environment by recognizing and removing the barriers to full participation and providing a safe, inclusive, vibrant community for all.”<sup>1</sup>; and

**Recognizing**, The Preamble to the Grand Valley State University Student Senate Constitution, “We, the members of the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, being determined to ensure the conveyance of the student voice to University governing bodies, the administration, and the Board of Trustees in matters of institutional policies.”<sup>2</sup>; and

**Recognizing**, The mission of the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, “to cultivate a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered.”<sup>3</sup>; and

**Recognizing**, The 3.7% increase in tuition adopted by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on the 22nd of June 2020<sup>4</sup>; and

**Recognizing**, that Grand Valley State University has raised tuition each year, for the past nineteen (19) years by 5.2% on average resulting in a 152% increase in the overall cost of tuition since 2003<sup>5</sup>; and

**Recognizing**, that as state appropriations per student, for higher education institutions, have declined, tuition and fees per student have increased above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A6B4946-964C-4E87-1E31AC7FCA7936BD>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student\\_senate\\_2020\\_constituton\(2\).pdf](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_2020_constituton(2).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student\\_senate\\_2020\\_constituton\(2\).pdf](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_2020_constituton(2).pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/boardoftrustees/download.htm?type=minutes&meetingId=0E4EC6A8-D73B-9BCB-2DC0F1F1C3169036>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/ia/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/Archives/PDF/HigherEducation/State\\_Appropriations\\_Tuition\\_and\\_Public\\_University\\_OperatingCosts.pdf](https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/Archives/PDF/HigherEducation/State_Appropriations_Tuition_and_Public_University_OperatingCosts.pdf)

**Whereas,** the Grand Valley State University Student Senate believes that the increase in tuition has outpaced the actual costs for University operations and has contributed to tuition increasing higher than inflation in comparison to the CPI and HEPI; and

**Recognizing,** A petition organized by a member of the student body to “Prevent Grand Valley State University From Charging Full Price for Fall 2020” has garnered over 5,000 signatures, roughly 20% of the student body<sup>7</sup>; and

**Recognizing,** That peer institutions including Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, Oakland University, Saginaw Valley State University, Western Michigan University, and Wayne State University have forgone an increase in tuition for Academic Year 2019-2020 due to the pandemic<sup>8</sup>; and

**Recognizing,** That peer institutions across the country have frozen and lowered tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year due to the pandemic in an effort to retain students<sup>9</sup>; and

**Recognizing,** The report from Michigan Future, *A Path to Good-paying Careers for all Michiganders: Improving student outcomes from education, birth to college*, finds that, “The high price of college presents a formidable obstacle to both college access and success for non-affluent students. On the access side, high tuition leaves students with the general impression that they can’t afford college, and they may choose not to attend.”<sup>10</sup>; and

**Whereas,** The increasing cost of higher education continues to erect barriers of affordability, thus impeding accessibility to quality higher education for low income and middle class students which directly contradicts Grand Valley State University’s values statement on inclusiveness<sup>11</sup>; and

**Recognizing,** that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate expresses its deep appreciation to Grand Valley’s leadership for steadfastly seeking to make student educational needs affordable and being named “one of 'America's 100 Best College Buys' for 25 consecutive years”<sup>12</sup>; and

**Whereas,** The Grand Valley State University Student Senate believes that after 20 years of unceasing tuition increases, that GVSU leadership redoubles its efforts in stringently pursuing cost savings and related efficiencies on behalf of the student body to the extent that the University avoids a tuition increase in 2021-2022; and

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.change.org/p/grand-valley-state-university-prevent-grand-valley-state-university-from-charging-full-price-for-fall-2020?utm\\_content=cl\\_sharecopy\\_23489131\\_en-US%3A6&recruiter=40048057&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=copylink&utm\\_campaign=tap\\_basic\\_share](https://www.change.org/p/grand-valley-state-university-prevent-grand-valley-state-university-from-charging-full-price-for-fall-2020?utm_content=cl_sharecopy_23489131_en-US%3A6&recruiter=40048057&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=tap_basic_share)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2020/06/15/michigan-colleges-freeze-tuition-hoping-students-stay-programs/5340988002/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/10/26/pandemic-related-tuition-freezes-help-slow-average-college-sticker-price-increases>

<sup>10</sup> <https://michiganfuture.org/report-path-good-paying-careers-michiganders-improving-student-outcomes-education-birth-college/>

<sup>11</sup>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/06/17/pandemic-has-worsened-equity-gaps-higher-education-and-work>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/gvnext/2020/gvsu-named-one-of-americas-100-best-college-buys-for-25-consecutive-years.htm>

**Recognizing,** The undue economic hardship Grand Valley students and student workers have faced as a result of the pandemic and the increased tuition burden; and

**Recognizing,** The current economic conditions require Grand Valley State University to be careful in its spending to assure students that every dollar is prudently invested to its best deployment; and

**Recognizing,** That Grand Valley State University's budgeting process for the Academic Year 2021-2022 is underway and Grand Valley's administration is hard at work to find an equitable solution for all GVSU stakeholders; and

**Whereas,** the Grand Valley State University Student Senate believes that increases in tuition negatively impacts the student body and will be a significant, contributing factor to the future decline in enrollment;

**Therefore, Let It Be Resolved,** the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, recommends that Grand Valley State University forgo an increase in tuition for the Academic Year 2021-2022.

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**Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved,** that this resolution shall be transmitted to the Board of Trustees and University Academic Senate and that a copy of the resolution shall be sent to President Mantella, Provost Cimitile, Dean Rullman, Vice President Sanial, and Vice President Truss.