



Resolution Number:	W-21-04	Sponsored By:	Vice President Pagel Senator Raak
Introduced On:	25 March 2021		
Voted On:	8 April 2021		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	Unanimous		

A RESOLUTION TO: Encourage On-Campus and State-Wide Collaboration and to Identify Solutions to the Issues in Higher Education.

Recognizing, the Mission Statement of the Grand Valley State University Student Senate tasks the Senate with “cultivat[ing] a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered”¹; and

Whereas, the Student Senate has been active in engaging more with higher education funding, working with university partners, other Student Governments, and doing our own research to serve the student body with an informed perspective; and

Whereas, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate ratified 03-01² and supports a coalition of Student Governments from each Michigan Public University to advocate for Michigan Students collectively; and

Recognizing, the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 recommends a state appropriation increase of 2% for all fifteen Michigan public universities³; and

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University’s economic impact has resulted in \$25 per \$1 of state allocated funds⁴; and

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University’s brief history has resulted in prosperity not only on campus or West Michigan, but in the communities of its five campuses across the state with nearly 80% of alumni working in Michigan in critical areas such as business, nursing, and teaching⁵; and

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University continues to outperform its peers with an 85% retention rate, 66% graduation rate, and 3.8% student loan default rate⁶; and

¹ [https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_2020_constitution\(2\).pdf](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/student_senate_2020_constitution(2).pdf)

² https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/68CD24DD-C5CE-ACD3-A1C4698B1764F93F/w-20-03_schef.pdf

³ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/FY2022_Executive_Budget_715974_7.pdf

⁴ <https://www.gvsu.edu/gvnext/2013/president-haas-addresses-higher-education-appropriations-committee-7396.htm>

⁵ <https://www.gvsu.edu/economicimpact/>

⁶ https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/ED78895D-A45A-6372-68464BE2602CDF31/2019-2020_accountability_report_508_compliant.pdf

Recognizing, since the 2001-2002 academic year, Grand Valley State University has increased tuition by 184%⁷ and university expenditures have increased by 107%⁸; and

Recognizing, in the same time period, state funding to Grand Valley State University has increased only 22%⁹; and

Recognizing, the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 does not resolve the funding disparities between the fifteen public universities in Michigan; and

Whereas, the Student Senate believes that a successful system of higher education institutions can only exist when the state appropriates adequate and equitable funding to colleges and universities; and

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, recommends that the GVSU administration continues to work with the Student Senate, and in the future meet with lawmakers, work towards more adequate and equitable higher education, and maximize the benefits of shared governance; and

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, The State of Michigan works with our Student Senate and other Michigan Student Governments to come up with proactive, equitable, and timely solutions to the challenges in higher education which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Student Senate shall further collaborate with and send a copy of this resolution to other Michigan Student Governments.

⁷ <https://www.gvsu.edu/studentaccounts/historical-tuition-rates-31.htm>

⁸ https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/8D573182-983E-4CEF-F0CCC1429FAFC6B8/2001_financial_statement.pdf
https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/8D86E681-E631-FDD9-C965A207536EA137/2020-21_general_fund_budget_financial.pdf

⁹ https://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/Departments/DataCharts/DChed_AppropsFundHistory.pdf