

RECEIVED SEP 25 2007
*A***Label:** SGAR44004**Date Introduced:** 09/05/07**Author(s):** Gus Forward, Brandon Brewton**Sponsor(s):** Gus Forward, Brandon Brewton**Committee:** Academic Affairs**Draft:** First Reading

Resolution To Address Financial Aid Dilemma

Whereas, the 44th Student Government Association of the University of Houston is passionate in finding every opportunity available for our fellow students to obtain a top quality education without facing a strong financial burden.

Whereas, the 44th Student Government Association of the University of Houston is adamant in perusing and maintaining that all resources are being optimized to ensure that the best financial aid program is available to our fellow students.

Whereas, the Student Government supports the university's efforts in this endeavor and will assist them in any opportunity possible to do so.

Whereas, the University of Houston System's 2007 Legislative Agenda states, "Funding for financial aid is a critical need for students. The success of TEXAS Grants program has been a mixed blessing. Because so many students continue to be qualified, the Legislature has not been able to fully fund the program."

Whereas, as state appropriations for higher education were increasing per student, even as enrollment grows, the proportion to state budgets devoted to higher education declined nationally.

Whereas, college costs have risen by more than 50% since 1990, but federal aid has not kept up. In addition, state financial support for higher public education has increased, but tuition has increased rapidly, at an even faster rate

Whereas, since the mid 1970s, average government grants and institutional aid has fallen from about 85 percent of financial aid packages to about 30 percent of financial aid packages with the rest in the form of subsidized and unsubsidized student loans.

Whereas, in 2004, 7.7% of graduating students with student loans owed \$40,000 or more. This amount is larger than what can be manageably repaid in 10 years by most full-time workers age 25-34 with a bachelor's degree.

Whereas, two-thirds of all four year college graduates in 2004 left school with student debt, compared with less than one-third in 1993.



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Whereas, the average borrower who graduates from a public college owes over \$17,000 in student loans. Ten years ago, the average student borrower attending a public college or university graduated owing \$8,000 from student loans.

Whereas, increases in tuition have made colleges and universities less affordable for most American families. The lowest-income families have lost the most ground, and this is a major factor in the lower rates of college attendance.

Whereas, each year we lose outstanding undergraduate/graduate students because our financial support does not compete well in the national arena. And we lose these students not only to quality schools, but to schools whose programs pale in comparison to ours.

Whereas, financial aid can, "increase graduation rates of students who might not be able to complete college due to financial issues."

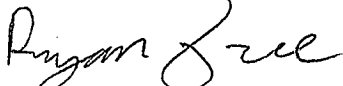
Whereas, in order to better recruit and retain the best and brightest students to the University of Houston, a comprehensive financial aid package must be the cornerstone of our tactical plan.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Section 1: As the University of Houston undergoes a transition in leadership, so should our capital campaign towards raising funds designated for financial aid.

Section 2: Let 20 cents of every dollar raised through the capital campaign be allocated to financial aid for the students on this campus. Also, let there be a greater emphasis placed on the financial aid program here at the University of Houston.

Speaker of the Student Senate,


Ryan Free

President of the Student Government,


David Rosen