

Received by the Regents
June 16, 2011

June 2011 Regents Report

Michigan Student Assembly



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeAndree R. M. Watson", written over a horizontal line.

DeAndree R. M. Watson
President

Michigan Student Assembly Report to the Board of Regents
June 16, 2011

President Coleman, members of the Board of Regents, and Executive Officers of the University, thank you for allowing me to address you all this afternoon. I want to begin by providing a legislative update from the Michigan Student Assembly. Before the Assembly adjourned at the end of April, three resolutions were passed regarding the budgetary decisions that this body will make this afternoon. The first was a resolution to support a \$2.50 fee increase for Student Legal Services. The Michigan Student Assembly believes that this office provides important legal services to students in terms of family, civil, and property law, and we want to ensure that this service continues to be available for students without reduction of quality. According to Student Legal Services and the authors of the resolution, an increase in the student fee will provide stable, sustainable funding for successful operation until fiscal year 2017, and I believe that this is a reasonable fee for such a valuable service for our students. Earlier in the year, the Assembly passed a joint-resolution in support of a \$1.00 fee increase for all school and college governments (23Y 4N 1A). This resolution originated in the University Council, where it passed by unanimous consent. Lastly, the Assembly passed a resolution to oppose any tuition increases for the 2011-2012 academic year, citing the fact that tuition at the University has increased 22% in the past five years, while the median household income has decreased 1.7% from 2005 to 2009 alone. I have signed all three of these resolutions, placing my full support for their content, but I would like to elaborate on the third resolution opposing tuition increases. There is no question that we are in the midst of a very trying economic period; every sector of our society has had to make cuts and sacrifices in order to survive in this difficult moment. And I have been personally made aware of the extraordinary effort of the University administration to keep our academic costs at an affordable level. So I have full faith and confidence that the

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University will do everything within its power to support its students if tuition rates rise, but I would be remiss if I did not express the deep concerns that many students have regarding this issue. The University of Michigan is a world-class institution that educates students from every corner of our global society, representing many different walks of life. Our rich cultural diversity is part of what prepares our students for future success. But as a result, Michigan is home to a number of students with many different needs. I am a part of a community on campus that relies on scholarships and financial aid to attend this university, and in a time when higher education expenses are becoming more of a burden on the average student, students are concerned that a college degree will eventually be out of reach. This is why Brendan and I ran on a platform that was partially dedicated to reducing the financial strain on students in two ways: first, by advocating for lower tuition costs, and second, by working with the state legislature to establish a grant that will subsidize the cost of higher education for underrepresented minority students, and to protect the diversity that defines our campus community. There are countless students on our campus who are already having a difficult time obtaining the funds to continue their education, and additional educational expenses will only make it harder. Now, I am aware of the difficult financial circumstances that many public institutions in our state face, but as a society, education has to be our first priority. Given the deep cuts to state appropriations for higher education, I know that the University has to replace its funding from somewhere, so I understand that a general tuition increase may be inevitable. And I also understand that some increases are necessary to continue to provide the same quality Michigan educational experience that generations of Wolverines have enjoyed for over 100 years, which is why I support the two resolutions for fee increases. However, on behalf of the students of this University, I ask that you

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carefully consider the implications of rising tuition costs before making a decision. One of the things that make Michigan special is that it has a longstanding tradition of providing a world-class education, at or above ivy-league standards, for students like me who wouldn't otherwise have such an opportunity due to financial limitations. We are a flagship institution that produces great leaders by making education accessible to all members of our community, and it is my hope that the University of Michigan can continue to provide that service and hold that special place in our society. Thank you.

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A \$2.50 FEE INCREASE FOR STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

- 2 **WHEREAS,** Student Legal Services provides important legal services to students in terms
 of family, civil, criminal, and property law¹; **AND**
- 4 **WHEREAS,** from 1978 until 1996 the Assembly maintained a dedicated fee for Student
 Legal Services which has since become their own administrative unit²; **AND**
- 6 **WHEREAS,** the Assembly passed a resolution supporting a \$1.50 increase in April 2009
 which was subsequently not presented to the Board of Regents³; **AND**
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Student Legal Services has again formally drafted a proposal for the increase
 that will be presented to the Board of Regents; **AND**
- 10 **WHEREAS,** it is the opinion of Student Legal Services and the author that an increase in
 the student fee will provide stable, sustainable funding for successful
12 operation until fiscal year 2017; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- 14 **RESOLVED,** that the Assembly, recognizing the benefits that the service provides, fully
 support a \$2.50 fee increase for Student Legal Services; **AND BE IT**
 FURTHER
- 16 **RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Board of Regents.

Authors

Zeid El-Kilani
Representative, Engineering

Whitney Smith
Representative, Engineering

Attest

Matthew Eral
Speaker of the Assembly

Aditya Sathi
Vice Speaker of the Assembly

¹ <http://studentlegalservices.umich.edu/our-services>

² Handout provided at April 5, 2011 Meeting

³ <https://www.msa.umich.edu/>

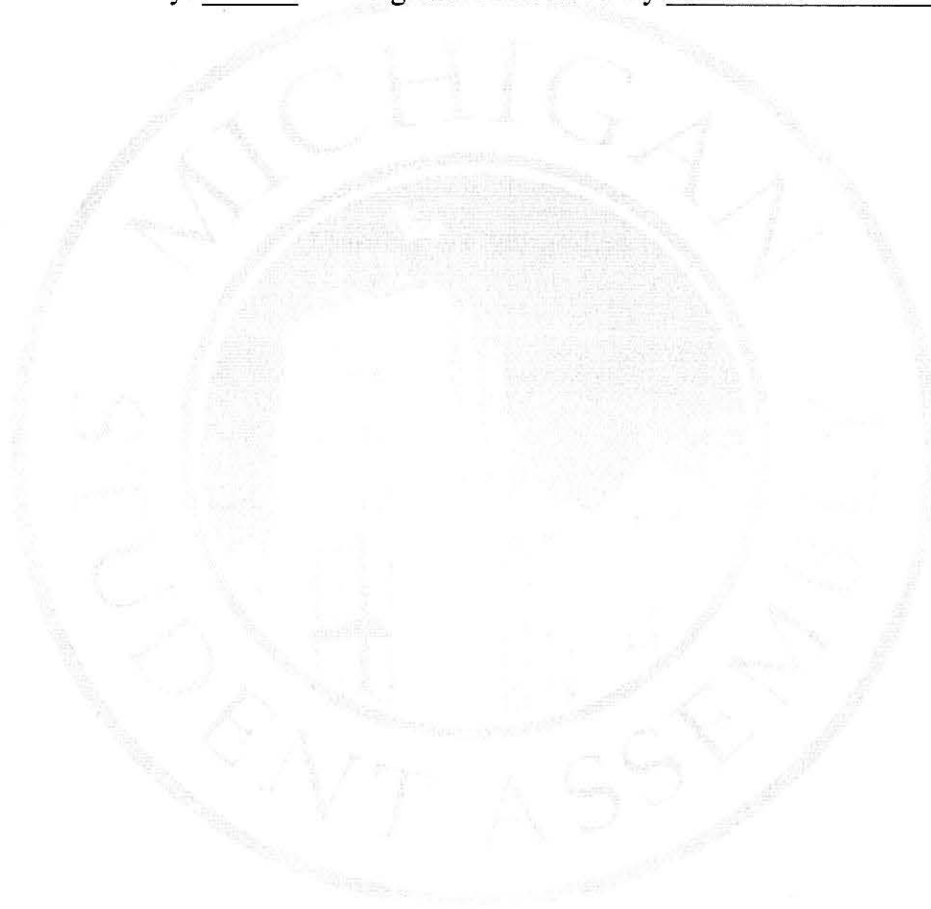
President's Approval

DeAndree Watson
President

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____
Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____



A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A \$1.00 FEE INCREASE FOR ALL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENTS

- 2 **WHEREAS,** all undergraduate and graduate students currently pay \$1.50 of their tuition to
 their respective college governments¹; **AND**
- 4 **WHEREAS,** each college government is reliant on these funds to operate as an
 organization, both internally and externally²; **AND**
- 6 **WHEREAS,** this amount has remained unchanged since 1999, when the student
 governments lobbied the administration for an increase from \$1.00 to \$1.50³;
8 **AND**
- 10 **WHEREAS,** the Michigan Student Assembly has received three fee increases since 1997,
 causing the fee to increase from \$3.69 to \$7.19⁴; **AND**
- 12 **WHEREAS,** since 1999, the average enrollment at the University of Michigan has
 increased from 37,846 students to 41,924 students resulting in a greater need
14 for resources from student governments to accommodate the student needs⁵;
 AND
- 16 **WHEREAS,** college student governments, such as LSA Student Government (hereafter
 LSA SG) and University of Michigan Engineering Council, provide funding
 to student organizations across campus⁶; **AND**
- 18 **WHEREAS,** the number of student organizations has increased significantly since 1999,
 now numbering nearly 1,300, causing more funding requests from student
20 organizations⁷; **AND**
- 22 **WHEREAS,** specifically, LSA SG's funding committee, the Budget Allocations
 Committee, has seen a 64% increase in student groups applying for funding
 in the past twelve years⁸; **AND**

¹ Office of the Registrar: <http://www.ro.umich.edu/tuition/full.php>

² LSA Student Government Winter 2011 Budget

³ Meeting Minutes, University of Michigan Board of Regents, July Meeting, 1999.

⁴ "Student fee increase up for vote tomorrow." *The Michigan Daily*. Nov. 13, 2001.

⁵ Office of the Registrar, University of Michigan.

⁶ LSA Student Government website: www.lsasg.umich.edu. University of Michigan Engineering Council Website
<http://www.umec.engin.umich.edu/>

⁷ Email interview with representative from Student Activities and Leadership Office.

24 **WHEREAS,** in the Winter 2011 LSA SG funding cycle, 92 student groups requested a
26 total of \$122,194.25, but LSA SG was only able to supply \$23,928.10 in
funds⁹; **AND**

28 **WHEREAS,** due to inflation over the past twelve years, in order to meet the value of the
\$1.50 fee amount approved in 1999, students would now have to pay \$1.96¹⁰;
AND

30 **WHEREAS,** a ballot question in the Winter 2011 LSA SG elections shows that 72.6% of
32 the 2,521 LSA students who voted support a \$1.00 fee increase for their
college government¹¹; **AND**

34 **WHEREAS,** a student government fee increase must be approved for all schools and
colleges by the University of Michigan Board of Regents¹²; **AND**

36 **WHEREAS,** the University Council is comprised of representatives from all school and
college Student Governments¹³; **THEREFORE BE IT**

38 **RESOLVED,** that the University Council supports a \$1.00 fee increase for school and
college student governments; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

40 **RESOLVED,** that the University Council requests that each school and college student
government pass a resolution supporting a \$1.00 fee increase in their
respective governing bodies.

Authors

Steven Benson
President, LS&A Student Government

Carly Goldberg
Vice President, LS&A Student Government

Attest

Jason Raymond
MSA Vice President

Timothy Bekkers
MSA Student General Counsel

⁸ LSA Student Government End of the Semester Report: Treasurer Jeffrey Larkin

⁹ LSA Student Government End of the Semester Report: Treasurer Jeffrey Larkin

¹⁰ http://www.inflationdata.com/inflation/Inflation_Calculators/Inflation_Rate_Calculator.asp

¹¹ LSA Student Government Election Director: Zachary Berlin

¹² University of Michigan Regent's Bylaws: ur.umich.edu/media/1011/Jan24_11/110124_bylaws.pdf

¹³ Michigan Student Assembly Bylaws: <https://www.msa.umich.edu/documents/governing-documents>

Presented to the Council on _____
Referred to the Assembly on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE TUITION INCREASES FOR THE UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR

- 2 **WHEREAS,** the tuition for the University of Michigan has increased 22% in the past five
 years;¹ **AND**
- 4 **WHEREAS,** the median household income in the state of Michigan has decreased 1.7%
 from 2005 to 2009;² **AND**
- 6 **WHEREAS,** facing similar conditions the previous year, Eastern Michigan University did
 not raise their tuition while maintaining their quality of education;³ **AND**
- 8 **WHEREAS,** the current state budget proposal plans to decrease funding for the University
 of Michigan by at least 15%;⁴ **THEREFORE BE IT**
- 10 **RESOLVED,** that on behalf of the students of the University of Michigan, the Michigan
 Student Assembly opposes tuition increases for the upcoming academic year;
12 **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- 14 **ORDERED,** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Board of Regents and the
 Michigan Daily.

Authors

Zeid El-Kilani
Representative, Engineering

Amanda Caldwell
Chair, College Democrats

¹ University of Michigan. (2010). *University of Michigan – Ann Arbor: Academic Year Tuition and Fees for Full-time Students by Degree Level, Academic Unit, and Residency*. Office of the Registrar Tuition and Fee Schedule. Retrieved April 11, 2011 from: http://sitemaker.umich.edu/obpinfo/files/umaa_tuitfee_history.pdf

² "Median Household Income (In 2009 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)." *American FactFinder*. Web. 11 Apr. 2011. <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_bm=y>.

"Median Household Income (In 2005 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)." *American FactFinder*. Web. 11 Apr. 2011. <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_bm=y>.

³ "Zero Percent Cost Increases for 2010." *Eastern Michigan University*. Web. 11 Apr. 2011. <<http://www.emich.edu/zero/costs.html>>.

⁴ Hoffman, Kathy Barks. "Snyder's Budget Cuts Education Spending." *Detnews.com*. 16 Feb. 2011. Web. 11 Apr. 2011. <<http://detnews.com/article/20110216/POLITICS02/102160432/Snyder%E2%80%99s-budget-cuts-education-spending>>.

Adam Watkins
Executive Board, College Democrats

Brendan Campbell
Vice President, MSA

Attest

Matthew Eral
Speaker of the Assembly

Aditya Sathi
Vice Speaker of the Assembly

President's Approval

DeAndree Watson
President

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