

Resolution on the Board of Regents Amendment to the Financial Report of Oct. 15, 2020

Whereas faculty, including part time faculty, as well as graduate and university assistants have made significant efforts and sacrifices to adapt to remote learning in Spring 2020 and hyflex and online learning in Fall 2020, in order to better serve our students during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas part time faculty, graduate assistants and university assistants are targeted for arbitrary reductions in the amendment to the Financial report approved by the Board of Regents at their last meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15;

Whereas the figures for cuts at CCSU are based on an arbitrary \$3 million reduction to the above groups across the four universities, as well as \$5 million cut to OE, with CCSU's share prorated as follows:

Part time lecturers	612,844
University assistants	114,108
Graduate assistants	138,133
OE reduction	1,726,246

Whereas a reduction of over \$600,000 to part time lecturers means cutting some 100 sections (based on an estimate of \$6,000 salary per class), which leads to reduction of 3500 seats (based on estimate of 35 students per class), or the equivalent of 700 full time student equivalents (based on an average of 5 classes per student) if implemented over one term, and 350 full time student equivalents per term if implemented over two terms;

Whereas this reduction, made as classes for Spring 2021 have already been determined, significantly reduces the classes available to students, thereby increasing their time to graduation at a time of financial difficulties for all;

Whereas the targeting of graduate students reduces wages available to our graduate students, many of whom have no other source of income, and the reduction of university assistants targets the least paid and therefore most economically vulnerable of our staff;

Whereas the amendment was not submitted in advance to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee of the Board for vetting and was only presented to members of the Board the evening before the Board's meeting;

Whereas the Presidents and Provosts of the four universities were not consulted, forestalling any efforts, in conjunction with shared governance and university structures, to provide parameters for cuts less injurious to our students, faculty, and staff;

Whereas the System Office holds in reserve \$22.42 million that it could release in part to cover additional revenue shortfalls;

Therefore be it Resolved:

•**That** the CCSU Faculty Senate requests that application of this amendment be suspended for Spring 2021 term while the amendment is submitted to the Board's Finance and Infrastructure Committee and as well be the subject of consultation with university Presidents, Provosts, and shared governance structures to determine measures not injurious to our students, faculty and staff;

•**That** the CCSU Faculty Senate requests that its FAC ex-officio member of the Board request a special meeting of the Finance Committee to modify the amendment in order to respect our commitment to providing courses to our students, and supporting our graduate and university assistants;

•**That** the CCSU Faculty Senate, in the absence of any corrective measures by the Board, authorizes a direct appeal to the Higher Education committee of the legislature, the New Britain delegation to the legislature, and the Governor of the state.

Approved 46-1 by the CCSU Faculty Senate, Monday, Oct. 19, 2020