

## FAC Resolution in Support of the April 27<sup>th</sup>

### TEACH OUT for Illinois Higher Education

- Whereas* the State of Illinois has failed to pass a full higher-education budget since fiscal year 2015; and
- Whereas* higher education funding and MAP grants have endured both repeated governor veto and failed veto override votes (*Chicago Tribune*); and
- Whereas* proposed budgets further cut higher education (Illinois Office of Management and Budget FY16, FY17, FY18); and
- Whereas* the State of Illinois has failed to pass and support MAP Grants for our low-income students in the current academic year (Illinois Student Assistance Commission); and
- Whereas* students are adversely affected by the continued budget impasse by programs being eliminated, classrooms with insufficient supplies, larger class sizes due to the lack of faculty and staff, and cuts in services offered to assist students (University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100); and
- Whereas* due to consistent underfunding of public higher education in Illinois, students face the fifth highest average public university tuition and fees in the country, and highest in the Midwest (College Board); and
- Whereas* over 70% of graduating Illinois students have student loan debt which is, on average, \$30,000 or more (lendedu.com); and
- Whereas* over 33,000 Illinois high school students left the state last year to attend out-of-state universities, rather than pursue their degrees in Illinois (*The New York Times*); and
- Whereas* some students have been forced to delay their education due to these cuts (*Springfield Journal Register*); and
- Whereas* higher-education employees have been laid off, furloughed, and/or forced to take pay cuts and/or defer their salaries to keep higher educational institutions' doors open (NEIU, CSU, EIU, WIU, Black Hawk College, Rock Valley College, Elgin Community College, McHenry Community College, and Richland College, among others); and
- Whereas* institutions have moved to eliminate programs due to decreasing enrollment, and these program cuts tend to be in the humanities which teach vital critical and creative thinking (CSU, GSU, WIU, and pending at EIU and NIU); and
- Whereas* the State of Illinois has chronically underfunded public higher education, including being the only sector cut in nominal dollars when compared to FY2000 (FY2000=\$2.15 billion compared to FY15 = \$1.99 billion) and when adjusted for inflation, Illinois public higher education has suffered a 41% cut in funding between FY 2000 and FY2015 (Center for Tax and Budget Accountability); and
- Whereas* the stop-gap appropriation passed by the Illinois General Assembly in June 2016 resulted in an over 78.5% cut in funding when compared to FY 2000 (adjusted for inflation), making it the single largest cut in higher education in the country (Center for Tax and Budget Accountability); and

*Whereas* between 2008 and 2015, Illinois has cut per-pupil higher education funding by over 54%, the second highest in the country (Center for Budget and Policy Priorities); and

*Whereas* higher-education degrees are vital to long-term personal and state economic growth, as well as to civic and cultural growth; and

*Whereas* our students and our state deserve better;

*Therefore be it resolved that* the Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education supports the state-wide TEACH OUT for Illinois Higher Education on April 27 in Springfield, when Illinois universities and colleges will bring students and employees to occupy the hallways and rotunda in the Capitol Building to demand full MAP and higher education funding; and

*Be it further resolved that* the Faculty Advisory Council encourages all supporting organizations and groups to join in the statewide TEACH OUT for Illinois Higher Education.

**Approved by the Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education on April 14, 2017**