

Motion to Oppose Tuition & Fees Increase at Radford University

Introduced by Basel Saleh

Whereas, The Constitution of the Faculty Senate states that “the Faculty Senate is intended to assure forceful and articulate representation of faculty interests and of the faculty view of the common good of the university community”

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, average college tuition and fees in the United States had increased by 94.4% since 2000

Whereas, Radford University’s tuition and fees increased by 160% since 2000

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, college textbook prices had increased by 67.7% since 2000

Whereas, the annual cost of books and supplies at Radford University increased by 69% since 2000

Whereas, financial hardships, associated with college attendance, on the students and their parents are destined to increase rapidly in the next two years if left unchecked and its wisdom unquestioned

Whereas, in 2009, 59% of Radford University students graduated with student loans debt, the fourth highest in the Commonwealth

Whereas, U.S. Household Median Income increased by only 18.5% since 2000 and ***decreased*** by 2.7% in real terms (2009 dollar)

Whereas, the citizens right to access affordable higher education is rapidly being curtailed by unsustainable and persistent increases in tuition and fees that will affect all families but more acutely low income families and minorities

Whereas, the faculty must stand united to protect against political attacks on higher education by all civil means sanctioned by law

Whereas, higher education solidifies and defends the ideals of democracy and shifting the entire burden of higher education on students and their families fractures society and weakens the public role and benefits of higher education

Whereas, we as faculty can’t afford to be isolated intellectuals and we must act upon our moral responsibility to defend against public policies that limit access to public education and diminish the common good of the university community

Whereas, the administration and the Board of visitors should strongly oppose and vociferously and tirelessly lobby against any further cuts in higher education budget to our university

Whereas, the faculty should send a message of solidarity to our students and their families who are increasingly being sacrificed on the altar of private market policies that is intended to inflate the political resume of politicians

Whereas, this senate body has to register its opposition against political attacks directed towards the higher ideals and the common good of higher education

Whereas, the politicians have not offered means and ways to increase state revenue and so far focused on budget cuts and other called saving initiatives

Whereas, strong funding for higher education will enhance the economic benefits in the Commonwealth by raising the prestige, the productivity, and the income in the state and making Virginia a more attractive business destination

Resolved that:

First, the Faculty Senate affirms its commitment to affordable access to higher education at Radford University and strongly oppose any further tuition and fees increases next fall; and

Second, the Faculty Senate calls upon the administration of Radford University and the members of the Board of Visitors to strongly oppose any further cuts in Radford University's budget and lobby the Governor's office to maintain and increase funding for our university

Third, the Faculty Senate urges the Secretary of Education and the Governor's Office to maintain and increase funding for Radford University in the coming years.