



SAMPLE senate resolution on New Deal for Higher Education

Whereas the fiscal crisis in higher education has been decades in the making, and the recent public health and economic crises have been used to justify further austerity measures that already undermine the ability of faculty to research and teach; and

Whereas these measures also impact our communities and our students, making access to high quality, affordable education out of reach for too many, thereby lessening the ameliorative impact of scholarship on economic and racial inequality; and

Whereas higher education is not simply a pipeline for future workers but a public good that can advance our common interest and strengthen our democracy by engaging the experiences and perspectives of a diverse people to create knowledge and leaders who can address the social, environmental, health, economic, and civic challenges of our time; and

Whereas all scholarly research has value, whether it be social, economic or cultural and thus drives innovation, prepares us for the challenges of our world and advances us as a society; and

Whereas the talents and abilities of faculty and other academic workers is maximized where academic freedom is protected and encouraged, and participation in decision making at all levels of the institution is open to those it impacts most; and

Whereas everyone who works on a college or university campus is entitled to dignity and respect, a voice on the job, and fair wages and benefits that allow them to focus on the mission of education; and

Whereas [Be sure to include specific examples of challenges that have plagued your students, faculty, and institution];

Be it therefore resolved that we call for an immediate New Deal for Higher Education.

A true New Deal for Higher Education will reauthorize the federal Higher Education Act and create other federal higher education policies that establish stable and dedicated public funding streams and accountability for higher education. We support:

- Prioritizing teaching, research, and supporting student success;
- Allowing all students to access higher education regardless of their ability to pay;
- Ensuring job security, equitable pay, professional voice, and sustainable careers for all faculty and staff;
- Creating academic environments free from racism, sexism, and other bigotries that prevent learning, degrade research, and perpetuate inequality; and
- Canceling student debt for borrowers who have unjustly shouldered the burden of financing higher education the last 50 years.

To this end we encourage students, staff, administrators, and leadership to join with us in these demands and take action to encourage our state and federal legislators to renew this country's capacity to educate citizens.