

MEMORANDUM

To: Fort Wayne Senate

From: Bernd Buldt, Chair
Executive Committee of the Fort Wayne Senate

Date: March 4, 2021

Subj: Resolution Supporting Increased Aid for Public Higher Education

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the Congressional CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act provided \$2 trillion in economic stimulus to rescue essential industries, including cruise lines, airlines, and hotel chains, with only \$14 billion earmarked for higher education; and

WHEREAS, in December 2020, Congress approved an additional \$900 billion COVID Relief Stimulus, which included a \$22 billion Higher Education Relief Fund to increase student Pell Grants; and

WHEREAS, Congress is currently discussing another \$1.9 trillion for pandemic relief, including \$30 billion for student grants; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2020, the American Council on Education reported that a minimum of \$50 billion would be needed to keep public higher education from collapsing; and

WHEREAS, by January 2021, Fitch Ratings, a leading credit rating agency, concluded that the limited federal support for higher education is severely insufficient given revenue shortfalls, cost increases, enrollment decreases, flat or reduced state funding, and other expenses; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, higher education serves 12 million students and employs millions of faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS, more than 250,000 students attend college in Indiana, with thousands of faculty and staff provide essential educational services; and

WHEREAS, public higher education is crucially "essential" to the functioning of a prosperous and democratic society, worthy of protection and support during and after the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Senate at Purdue University Northwest has endorsed a resolution similar to this one and the Intercampus Faculty Council has endorsed forwarding the resolution to the faculty senates of the Purdue System for evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the PFW Senate fully supports the resolution;

BE IT RESOLVED, that we urgently call on the U.S. Congress to allocate increased emergency funds to protect public higher education for all.

Approved
Bernd Buldt
Hui Di
Peter Dragnev
John Egger
Ann Marshal
James Toole
Nash Younis

Opposed

Abstention

Absent

Non-Voting
Craig Ortsey