

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODY
THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH STUDENT SENATE
FALL TERM TWO-THOUSAND AND TWENTY**

RESOLUTION NO. S.Res-107-03 **AUTHORED BY** Vice-President Ray
SUPPORTED BY Senator Bly

A RESOLUTION TO: AMEND THE 2020-2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT BUDGET TO ALLOCATE \$50,000 OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT FUNDS (\$20,000 FROM THE CURRENT YEAR'S BUDGET AND \$30,000 FROM RESERVES) TO PROVIDE EMU STUDENTS WITH NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE, TO HELP THEM ENROLL IN WINTER SEMESTER CLASSES.

THE STUDENT BODY OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, The Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing economic crisis has increased the financial hardship already felt by many EMU students,

WHEREAS, The University raised the "past due charges" to register for classes from \$200 to \$500 last Winter Semester, but many EMU students still struggle to pay their outstanding bills, which often prevents them from registering for classes in an upcoming semester, thereby limiting their opportunity to continue their education,

WHEREAS, More students registering for classes will improve the financial stability of EMU, as the primary source of funding for EMU is the credit hours from tuition,

WHEREAS, Pell grant recipients, who make up roughly 44% of the EMU student body, will be receiving \$446 direct payments early in the Winter Semester, as the last round of CARES Act financial aid,

WHEREAS, Allocations to student organizations have been much lower than in previous years, and the Student Government allocation line item would still be at less than 50% spent as of December 15, 2020, if this resolution is approved,

WHEREAS, if a need-based scholarship averaging \$500 per student were available to EMU students who were otherwise unable to register for winter 2021 classes because of their outstanding financial obligations to the University, an investment of \$50,000 would provide such opportunity to 100 students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 107th EMU Student Senate allocates \$50,000 to fund need-based retention scholarships for EMU students to be administered by the University's Financial Aid Office to support efforts to allow students to register for winter 2021 classes,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this \$50,000 allocation shall be funded by reducing the "Allocations" line item of the 2020-2021 Student Government budget by \$20,000 and by transferring \$30,000 from Student Government financial reserves (which will reduce Student Government's financial reserves to approximately \$100,000),

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the 107th EMU Student Senate supports keeping the maximum past due charge amount in order to register for classes at \$500, urges the University to explore the costs and benefits of increasing that threshold above \$500, and opposes any decrease to that maximum due charge below \$500.

INTRODUCED IN COMMITTEE: (Date)

COMMITTEE VOTE: (Pass/Fail/Bypass)

AYES ____

NAYS ____

INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE: (Date)

SENATE VOTE: (Pass/Fail)

AYES ____

NAYS ____

ABSTAIN ____

AUTHORIZE____ **VETO**____

CLERK OF THE SENATE

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT