

Washtenaw County Democratic Party Resolution in Support of Students at the University of Michigan Flint & Dearborn Campuses

Passed Saturday, September 7th, 2019

Whereas as active members of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party, we are incredibly proud that our state is home to the University of Michigan which has served, educated, and molded millions of Michiganders into the Leaders and Best, and has more than earned its title as the nation's top public university;

Whereas the University of Michigan is one of the financially strongest public universities in the United States, with an Endowment Fund of over \$12 Billion¹ and over \$3.4 Billion² in unrestricted reserves, and with yearly excess cash flows from 2007 to 2017 averaging over \$375 Million per year, over \$500 Million each year for 2016 & 2017, and \$321,619,000 for 2018;³

Whereas even with the overall wealth of the UM system, the UM-Flint and UM-Dearborn campuses continue to suffer from extreme budget shortages, reduced class offerings, and faculty layoffs, which reduce student support and often extends time to graduation;

Whereas Ann Arbor student graduation rates are 79.3% within 4 years and 91.9% within 6 years (freshman class of 2012);⁴ Dearborn graduation rates are 16.5% within 4 years and 54.4% within 6 years (freshman class of 2011);⁵ Flint graduation rates are 14.48% within 4 years and 46.17% within 6 years (freshman class of 2012);⁶

Whereas Dearborn and Flint students pay 80% of the tuition that Ann Arbor students pay,⁷ but Dearborn and Flint per-student funding by the University of Michigan is about one quarter of the resources it provides per Ann Arbor student for instructional support, financial aid, health services, and more;⁸

¹ <https://record.umich.edu/articles/u-m-endowment-1b-over-last-year-strong-rate-return>

² See page 79 of the University's 2018 audited financial statements:
<https://2018.annualreport.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/56/2018/12/FY18-Complete-Financial-Statements.pdf>

³ Excess cash flows are derived from the audited financial statements. It is arrived at through Net Cash Used in Operating Activities and Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financial Activities. For 2018, the Net Cash Used in Operating Activities was -\$411,082,000 and the Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financial Activities (which includes the combined tri-campus State Appropriation of \$361,787,000) was \$732,701,000. These numbers can be found on page 49. The difference is \$321,619,000 - the excess cash flow for 2018. Previous years' excess cash flows were calculated in the same manner with their respective audited financial statements: <http://www.finance.umich.edu/finops/reporting/annualreports>

⁴ http://obp.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/pubdata/factsfigures/gradrates_uma_03-12.pdf

⁵ http://institutional-research-data.umdearborn.edu/ibi_apps/bip/portal/Student_Success_Dashboard

⁶ https://www.umflint.edu/analysis/qf_retention_graduation

⁷ <https://umich.edu/facts-figures/>

⁸ Per-student funding is calculated by dividing each campus' yearly spending on instruction, student services, and scholarships by the total student FTE (full-time equivalent). This data comes from IPEDS.

Whereas Flint students take on almost three times, and Dearborn students take on twice as much debt⁹ (as a percentage of median family income)¹⁰ as Ann Arbor students;

Whereas the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion funds and Go Blue Guarantee that this University champions exist only on the Ann Arbor campus;

Whereas the medical services provided to Ann Arbor students are not made available on the Flint and Dearborn campuses;

Whereas the layered financial burdens of low-income and working students in Flint and Dearborn too often prevent them from utilizing study abroad programs;

Whereas we have always been proud of the University of Michigan's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the Dearborn and Flint campuses have proportionally higher populations of low-income students, working-class students, and students of color than Ann Arbor;

Whereas less than half of Ann Arbor students are Michigan residents;¹¹ 94% of Dearborn students are Michigan residents;¹² 92.6% of Flint students are Michigan residents;

Whereas the educational experiences of Flint and Dearborn students would be drastically improved by the Go Blue Guarantee, a broader spectrum of instructional support programs, and on-campus medical services;

Whereas, in failing to support them, the University's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion rings hollow;

Whereas the University has the funds to support these life-changing initiatives;

Whereas while the State has yet to fulfill its obligation to properly fund all of Michigan's public universities, this is unlikely to happen until we support Governor Whitmer by electing Democratic majorities in the State Senate and the State House;

Whereas the University of Michigan's President and Board of Regents are responsible to the entire university and are obligated to properly fund all of its three campuses irrespective of ongoing efforts to enhance statewide higher education funding for all universities;

Therefore Be It Resolved that we are calling on the University of Michigan to make annual investments in the Flint and Dearborn campuses – the investments needed would be a tiny fraction of the University's budget – that would allow these campuses to provide the Go Blue

⁹ <https://lendedu.com/blog/average-student-loan-debt-statistics#MI>

¹⁰ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/college-mobility/university-of-michigan-ann-arbor>

¹¹ <https://umich.edu/facts-figures/>

¹² <https://umdearborn.edu/about/facts-figures>

Guarantee to their students, proportional DEI funding for Flint & Dearborn, provide greater Flint and Dearborn faculty support, provide greater class offerings so more students can graduate within 4 years, provide medical and legal services comparable to Ann Arbor, and provide more scholarships for study abroad;

Be It Further Resolved that as members of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party we are committed to reaching out to Democratic Parties across the state to support similar resolutions in support of University of Michigan students on Flint and Dearborn campuses.