

10                   **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY AND**  
20                   **ACCOUNTABILITY IN UNIVERSITY BUDGETING PROCESSES**

30       **WHEREAS:** Access to higher education plays a crucial role in enabling upward social  
40                   mobility; and,

50       **WHEREAS:** Over the past decade the cost of public four-year institutions rose 4.4% per  
60                   year after inflation; and,

70       **WHEREAS:** Rapidly increasing costs (an estimated \$83,488 for an in-state student at  
80                   the University of Maryland College Park for four years) are making higher  
90                   education a greater burden for students and families and limiting social  
100                  mobility; and,

110       **WHEREAS:** If the University System of Maryland (USM) fails to cut costs and  
120                  increase efficiency, universities will face further prohibitive tuition  
130                  increases and program cuts; and,

140       **WHEREAS:** Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a process of direct, voluntary, and  
150                  universal democracy which provides the population with the opportunity  
160                  to discuss budgetary issues and make relevant decisions. By participating  
170                  in the budgeting process, stakeholders guide policy decisions to benefit  
180                  more members of the community; and,

190       **WHEREAS:** PB has consistently proven to have a positive impact on communities.  
200                  Originally developed in Porto Alegre, Brazil, PB has spread to over 300  
210                  cities worldwide and has been praised by international organizations such  
220                  as the UN, EU, and World Bank as a method of increasing accountability,  
230                  transparency, efficiency, and output and as a key factor for fiscal growth  
240                  and development; and,

250       **WHEREAS:** Applying PB to a segment of the USM budget would reduce the cost of  
260                  students' education and prevent program cuts, while simultaneously  
270                  providing education in the deliberative democratic process: by exercising  
280                  decision-making through practical application students become better  
290                  deliberators, learn about the budgeting process, and gain a sense of  
300                  empowerment through direct democratic action.

310       **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature recommend  
320                  the Maryland General assembly to pass legislation that would implement  
330                  participatory budgeting practices in the budgeting process at the USM and  
340                  its member institutions.

350    **MANDATES:**           Martin O'Malley, Governor, State of Maryland  
360                           Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President, Maryland State Senate  
370                           Michael E. Busch, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates  
380                           Edward J. Kasemeyer, Majority Leader, Maryland State Senate  
390                           David R. Brinkly, Minority Leader, Maryland State Senate  
400                           Kumar P. Barve, Majority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates  
410                           Anthony J. O'Donnell, Minority Leader, Maryland House of  
420                           Delegates  
430                           William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland  
440                           Joseph Vivona, COO/Vice Chancellor for Administration and  
450                           Finance, University System of Maryland

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