



Northeastern University

Student Government Association Senate
Legislation

Student Government Association

October 01, 2003

Sense of the Senate: Invest Academic Improvements

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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**A SENSE OF THE STUDENT SENATE STRONGLY RECOMMENDING THAT
THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES INVEST IN THE
ACADEMIC QUALITY OF THE UNIVERSITY WITHOUT INCREASING THE
UNDERGRADUATE TUITION RATE BEYOND 2.0% FOR THE 2004-2005
ACADEMIC YEAR (FY05)**

- WHEREAS:** "The object of the [Student Senate] is to be the official liaison between the students and the University Faculty and Administration; to act in an advisory capacity to the Faculty and Administration; to strive to make the University a continually more serviceable institution; to be the means by which the student body of the University communicates with the faculty, administration, and Trustees of the University" (Constitution Article II) **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** "The Association was established on the basis that it would be the representative group of the entire full-time undergraduate university community including all of its diverse view[s] and peoples." (Constitution Article II) **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** Northeastern University is currently preparing its fiscal year 2005 budget **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** The University has consistently raised its undergraduate tuition rate over the course of the last decade, in part to achieve its goal of becoming one of the top 100 national research institutions, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** The current economy combined with the rising costs to attend Northeastern University have prohibited numerous students from remaining enrolled, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** A majority of undergraduates require some form of financial aid to remain enrolled at the University, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** Financial Aid awards are not automatically increased on a percentage basis to maintain consistency in the actual dollar amount that families pay across a student's tenure as an enrolled student, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** Over 60% of the University's operating budget is funded directly through tuition revenues, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** Northeastern University positioned itself to be one of the 5.9% of universities in the country with a tuition rate above \$25,000 per year for freshmen, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** The University has engaged in a massive building project over the past 10 years, vastly increasing its physical footprint, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** The quality of students entering the university has improved dramatically over the past 5 years, but the academic quality of the institution has not increased concurrently, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** Many of the basic colleges (Arts and Sciences, Bouvè College of Health Sciences, Criminal Justice, Business Administration, Computer Science, and Engineering) do not have sufficient funds to adequately support teaching, research, and service within their units, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** The Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Business Administration are currently operating in deficit, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** Limited financial resources will have a dramatic effect on both the University's morale and its quality of instruction, **AND,**
- WHEREAS:** Full-time professors faculty are essential to uphold the underlying mission of the university to provide an enriching and engaging academic atmosphere, **AND,**

WHEREAS: The University's current lack of funding has ignored the overwhelming mental health needs of the Undergraduate Student Body. This deficiency negatively affects academic work; thereby, compromising the academic quality and integrity of the institution, **AND,**

WHEREAS: The University has failed to provide adequate funding for its library in terms of keeping pace with inflation and ensuring that the current collection fulfills the needs of the student body, **THEREFORE IT IS THE**

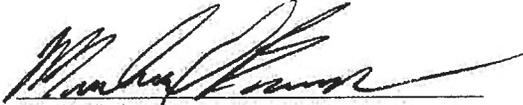
SENSE OF THE STUDENT SENATE, AS THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY, THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- * That Northeastern University not raise the undergraduate tuition rate by more than 2% (\$256 / semester) for academic year 2004 – 2005.
- * That Northeastern University accept the October 29, 2003 recommendation of the Faculty Senate to increase the number of tenure-track and tenured faculty over the next five years to be in line with other Tier 2 institutions (institutions ranked 51 – 126), specifically by adding at least 20 tenure-track or tenured faculty across the colleges in the upcoming academic year.
- * That the University Administration provide a substantial increase to the University Library's budget, at a minimum adjusting all library costs for inflation and ensuring that the overall library budget will be in line with other top 100 institutions.
- * That Northeastern University continue to support undergraduate financial aid by 1) increasing the base financial aid pool proportionally with the undergraduate tuition, and by 2) mandating that Student Financial Services provide a mechanism for a yearly review of all students' award packages, ensuring that each student receives the largest possible allocation.
- * That Northeastern University adopt an in-class model of 1.65 semesters per student per year as opposed to 1.6 semesters per student per year, thereby effectively modeling the student body's current enrollment trends and providing an increase in projected revenues for the budget process.
- * That Northeastern University institute a 3% merit raise pool for the upcoming academic year for all faculty and staff.
- * That the university make the long-term commitment to the proliferation of Mental Health services specifically by funding a full-time sexual assault counselor; thereby, reaffirming its commitment to providing adequate counseling and educational services to Northeastern students.
- * That Northeastern University accept the October 29, 2003 recommendation of the Faculty Senate to increase the non-salary operating funds of the basic colleges by \$2 million each year during the Fiscal years 2005 – 2008 in support of teaching, research, and service.
- * That Northeastern University hire a minimum of 10 academic advisors, to be distributed across the basic colleges based on the highest advisor to student ratio, prior to the start of the 2004 – 2005 academic year.

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That the University explore cross-divisional reallocation opportunities prior to increasing the undergraduate tuition rate in an effort to more efficiently direct our limited funds to current objectives.

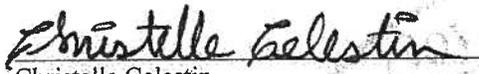
Respectfully submitted with the approval of the University Budget Committee and the Executive Board of the Association,



Michael Benson
Vice President for Financial Affairs



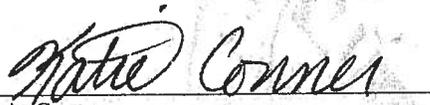
Michael Amato
Senator, College of Arts and Sciences



Christelle Celestin
Special Interest Senator, Black Engineering Student Society



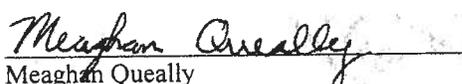
Samuel Chase
Senator, College of Business Administration



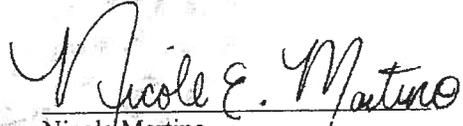
Katie Conner
Senator, College of Arts and Sciences



Rosena Cornet
Special Interest Senator, Haitian Student Unity



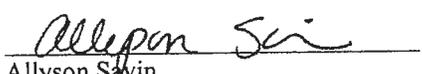
Meaghan Queally
Senator, College of Criminal Justice



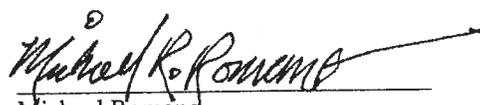
Nicole Martino
Vice President for Student Services



Peter Antonellis
Vice President for Academic Affairs



Allyson Savin
Vice President for Student Affairs



Michael Romand
President

Attest:



Stephanie Raveling
Vice President for Administration

Yea: 67

Nay: 2

Abstain: 1