

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, elimination of debt in higher education and pathways to education as a public good represents substantial opportunities for our Eastern Kentucky University to demand support for and reform of higher education, increase economic and public health security, expand prosperity, create jobs, and save our community money;

WHEREAS, cancelling student loan debt and eliminating debt in higher education represents an enormous economic opportunity for our Eastern Kentucky University to support students, staff, and faculty in moving upward in social mobility, creating and pursuing better jobs, increasing spending in our local community, and providing a deeply needed stimulus during the pandemic;

WHEREAS, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander, and other communities of color; economically disadvantaged residents; older people and young adults experience the impacts of student debt and debt generally most acutely;

WHEREAS, abolishing of student debt also represents a moral opportunity for our Eastern Kentucky University to support students, addressing racial and gender wage gaps, and providing better overall health outcomes to students since debt is associated with negative mental and physical health outcomes, like stress, depression, general health, obesity and mortality;

WHEREAS, cancelling student debt is a policy that is strongly supported across all political parties and across the country, but especially here in Kentucky, and now President Joe Biden and the Democrats committed to some form of student debt cancellation during the 2020 election;

WHEREAS, student debt cancellation is only one step toward relief and a better higher education system, and examples from overseas and locally show the need for elimination of full student loan debt and investment in and pathways toward free higher education and other programs to support higher education as a public good;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University calls for the Federal Government to commit to cancel all student debt.

The EKU Faculty Senate requests that the Federal Government enacts a plan to cancel student debt and begin the transition to education as a public good.

Introduced on April 4, 2022 by: Senator Matthew Winslow

Adopted on April 4, 2022