

FACULTY SENATE DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION ON CANCELING STUDENT DEBT

THE PROBLEM

More than 45 million people in the United States hold nearly two trillion dollars of student debt. Student debt exacerbates class, race, and gender inequalities. It reduces students' access to education, and hinders them from taking jobs of their choice in the fields in which they were trained. It burdens our faculty and staff, who also carry student debt into their offices and classrooms. And most importantly, it's unnecessary, as there are clear opportunities now for canceling that debt and reforming higher education finance to prevent students from incurring further debt.

THE MOMENT

In December 2021, Biden extended the federal student debt payment pause until May 1st, the *second* extension since 2020. . But, our communities are suffering and need student debt cancellation now, more than ever. Now is the time to turn the payment pause into permanent cancellation. The idea of student debt cancellation has never been so popular, or possible [Over two thirds of Americans support some kind of student debt cancellation](#). Substantial numbers of elected officials and grassroots organizations are ready to mobilize.

THE DEMAND

We are calling for full student loan debt cancellation and a pathway to tuition free college.

MODEL RESOLUTION FOR FACULTY SENATE ADAPTATION

WHEREAS, elimination of debt in higher education and pathways to education as a public good represents substantial opportunities for our [COLLEGE OR 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 [COLLEGE OR 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 [COLLEGE OR 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 [CITY or STATE], 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 [COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY] calls for the Federal Government to commit to cancel all student debt.

[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 [DATE] by: Adopted on [DATE]