

Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: April 2, 2019
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 22-18/19
SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Public Higher Education	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees vote to approve the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Public Higher Education

WHEREAS, public education that is available to all students from prekindergarten through higher education is foundational to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, all of our students, no matter where they live or study, deserve access to an affordable public college or university, which prepares them for fulfilling careers and to be contributing members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's per-student funding for public higher education has declined by 32 percent since 2001; and

WHEREAS, student debt for public higher education has reached staggering levels, impoverishing students and families, and preventing many from completing their degree programs; and

WHEREAS, faculty and staff in community colleges, state universities and the University of Massachusetts system are experiencing the elimination of programs, service cuts, and increased use of part-time faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Higher Education Finance Commission found in 2014 that our public colleges and universities are underfunded by more than \$500 million a year; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of students who attend our public colleges and universities live and work in Massachusetts after they graduate, contributing their knowledge and skills to our economy and our communities;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees at Fitchburg State University urges the Legislature to approve and fund a foundation budget for our public higher education system that guarantees all students access to high-quality, debt-free public higher education.