

Petition to the Board of Trustees

We, the undersigned faculty and staff of Fitchburg State University, are:

- *Worried* about recent budgetary trends at the University that have prioritized the hiring of senior administrators;
- *Concerned* about how these hiring trends will impact our mission of providing an excellent education for all and our vision of being a "student-ready" university;
- *Apprehensive* about the structural deficit resulting from rapidly declining enrollments in the Day Unit and the recent and unprecedented operating deficits covered by HEERF monies;
- *Worried* by the lack of transparency regarding the true state of the University's finances;
- *Looking* for leadership from President Lapidus on these issues.

We do hereby call on President Lapidus and the administration to:

- *Implement* a hiring freeze on new senior (non-unit) administrators;
- *Commit* funds to hiring staff dedicated to retention and recruitment;
- *Allocate* funds to hiring new faculty, preserving faculty lines, and building academic excellence at the University;
- *Increase* transparency regarding the fiscal and financial state of the University by holding a series of town halls specifically on these issues;
- *Create* a task force with representatives from the administration, faculty, staff, and students to develop a financial strategic plan for the next 5 years.