

B.P.R. #1-2021

Introduced by: Townley Sorge *Speaker, CPH Rep*

Co-Sponsored: Emmanuel Herrera *Vice Speaker, Second Year Rep*

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021: This resolution calls upon the Temple Student Government executive branch to propose that Temple University enact a Tuition Freeze for the 2021-2022 school year for in- and out-of- state undergraduate and graduate students.

Currently, Temple’s Board of Trustees has not approved a tuition freeze for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Knowing, The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education has voted to freeze basic in-state tuition for the 2021-2022 school year.

Knowing, The Temple University Board of Trustees approved a tuition freeze for the 2020-2021 school year, a year impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Understanding, That the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic has caused significant economic hardship for college students

Understanding, That increasing tuition may negatively impact the wellbeing of students at Temple

Understanding, that President Englert has stated “With the economy in its current state, we could not in good conscience propose an increase in Temple’s tuition... Students have had to face many challenges in recent months. A tuition increase should not be one of them.”

OPERATIVE- CLAUSE, Temple Student Government’s Executive Branch should immediately begin the process to present this proposal to Temple’s Board of Trustees

RESEARCH PACKET

Pennsylvania State System for Higher Education. (2021, April 15). *State System of Higher Education votes to freeze tuition for an unprecedented third consecutive year; launches strategy to foster diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)* [Press Release].
<https://www.passhe.edu/News/Pages/Releases.aspx?q=2021-04-15-Student-Tuition-DEI>

The Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) oversees 14 public state universities. Universities within the State System include: Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock and West Chester universities of Pennsylvania.

The Board of Governors for the PASSHE voted to freeze in-state tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year. As stated by Cindy Shapira, the chair of the Board of Governors, "A quality education and an affordable one go hand-in-hand at our universities. Students deserve our full support as they continue focusing on attaining a degree through the pandemic."

Wade, C.M. (2021, April 19). UMass freezes in-state tuition for second year. *The Eagle Tribune*. https://www.eagletribune.com/news/umass-freezes-in-state-tuition-for-second-year/article_cfb1801d-e3f9-5540-b729-07c6b723aed6.html

The Board of Trustees for the University of Massachusetts have voted to freeze tuition for in-state undergraduate and graduate students for the 2021-2022 academic year. President Marty Meehan, President of the University of Massachusetts, told the Board of Trustees before the vote "Our goal is to ease the financial burden of our students and families, many of whom have suffered from job losses, business closures and other impacts of COVID-19 crisis."

University System of New Hampshire. (2021, April 5). *University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College and Granite State College Announce Third Consecutive Tuition Freeze for In-State Students* [Press Release].

<https://www.usnh.edu/sites/default/files/media/news/docs/press/2021-04-05-usnh-tuition-freeze.pdf>

The University System of New Hampshire (USNH) oversees 4 public state universities. Universities within the State System include: Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of New Hampshire.

The USNH has decided to freeze tuition for in-state students for the 2021-2022 academic year. As stated by Cathy Provencher, USNH Vice Chancellor, “This has been an incredibly challenging year in so many ways, and we continue to work to lessen the financial burden on our students and their families, many of whom have suffered job losses, business closures and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Freudenberg, N., Jones, H., Manze, M., et al. (2021). The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on College Students’ Health and Financial Stability in New York City: Findings from a Population-Based Sample of City University of New York (CUNY) Students. *Journal of Urban Health* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-020-00506-x>

An article published in the *Journal of Urban Health* investigated the impact of COVID-19 on college student financial and mental wellbeing. The authors conducted a cross-sectional study of City University of New York (CUNY) students.

Researchers found that 81.1% of students reported that they or someone in their household lost income as a result of COVID-19. Furthermore, 47.8% of students reported an increase in household spending as a result of COVID-19. Half of students reported that feeling very or somewhat worried that they would lose housing as a result of the pandemic, nearly half of students reported experiencing food instability, and 85% of students reported a reduced ability to purchase food.

Temple University. (2020). Board of Trustees approves tuition freeze for

2020–2021 academic year. *Temple Now.*

<https://news.temple.edu/news/2020-05-12/board-trustees-approves-tuition-freeze-2020-2021-academic-year>

On May 12th, 2020, the Temple University Board of Trustees approved a tuition freeze for in- and out-of- state tuition for undergraduate and graduate students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

President Richard M. Englert stated regarding the tuition freeze, “With the economy in its current state, we could not in good conscience propose an increase in Temple’s tuition,” and further going on to say. “Students have had to face many challenges in recent months. A tuition increase should not be one of them.”

APPROVED ON APRIL 26, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bradley A. Smutek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'S'.

Bradley A. Smutek
President, Temple Student Government