

*A resolution allocating funding for the free Cap & Gown Rental Program*

Presented on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2020

Sponsors: Hussein Bazzi, Stuart Buam

Co-sponsors: Kenan Sinan, Jasmine Coles, Mazen Zamzam, Riya Chhabra, Marcella Eid

**WHEREAS**, Students face a significant financial burden when they are required to purchase caps and gowns in order to participate in University commencement ceremonies; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Due in part to this financial burden, many students refrain from participating in University commencement ceremonies, and are thus deprived of formal recognition of their significant academic achievements<sup>1</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, With our historically low graduation rates having recently experienced a dramatic upturn, more students are now qualifying for the opportunity to participate in University commencement ceremonies than before; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, With the disparities in our graduation rates of first generation students, students in poverty, and students of color finally narrowing, more of these students in particular are benefitting from the opportunity to participate in University commencement ceremonies; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, University support for students' academic performance, and celebration of their academic achievements, is a critical component to fostering a climate and culture of student success and wellness; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Against the backdrop of a nation-wide college affordability crisis, efforts to reduce the financial barriers that students face must be supported<sup>2</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, it is the core mission of the Wayne State University Student Senate to support initiatives that promote student success and reduce the financial barriers that students face at this University.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will allocate \$6,000 in funding to establish the free Cap & Gown Rental Program in

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<sup>1</sup> Data received by Special Events and Services and University Commencement Office.

<sup>2</sup> Archibald, Robert B., and David H. Feldman. "The College Affordability Crisis?" Why Does College Cost So Much?, 2010, pp. 185–198., doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199744503.003.0012.

collaboration with the Warrior Wardrobe, which will allow students to rent caps & gowns for use in University commencement ceremonies; **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that \$5,700 of this funding will be used to purchase 100 baccalaureate-level cap & gown sets to seed the free rental program, \$150 of this funding will be used to pre-purchase new tassel year attachments for the next cycle of University commencement ceremonies, and the remaining \$150 will be used to purchase donation bins and other materials to promote the success of this initiative; **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Warrior Wardrobe will accept new donations of caps & gowns to help grow and sustain this program, as well as donations of funds to cover other costs incurred by the long-term operation of this program; **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will work with the Warrior Wardrobe to promote and support the long-term sustainability of this program for perpetuity.

**AND FINALLY, BE IT ORDERED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this request to all relevant outlets.

X Riya Chhabra

*Riya Chhabra*

President

X Marcella Eid

*Marcella Eid*

Vice President