

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

Presented on the 1st of April 2021

Sponsors: Hussein Bazzi, Riya Chhabra

Co-sponsors: Amina Khalique, Jasmine Coles, Mannat Bedi, Marcella Eid, Obioma Opara

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 achievements¹; **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 supported²; **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 \$3,000 in funding to establish the first half of the free Cap & Gown Rental Program

¹ Data received by Special Events and Services and University Commencement Office.

² 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.

in 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 \$2,600 of this funding will be used to purchase 50-60 baccalaureate-level cap & gown sets depending on the final cost and \$200 will be used to purchase a steam cleaner the free rental program, and the remaining \$200 will be used to purchase donation bins and other materials to promote the success of this initiative; these materials will be stored in either the Student Center or WSU bookstore and the Pilot Program will be launched at the first in person Commencement; **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