CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 860404
GSS Resolution: GF11-25

AS INTRODUCED

A concurrent resolution stating the importance of Higher Education funding; urging lawmakers to continue funding at appropriate levels; providing an effective date; and directing distribution.

Whereas: Higher Education has an impact of over $3.2 billion per year on Oklahoma’s economy; and,

Whereas: Despite an economic downturn, fall enrollment at Oklahoma institutions for Higher Education continues to increase at an accelerating rate; and,

Whereas: In a November 10, 2011 letter, University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren informed faculty and staff that even at last year’s funding levels, the University of Oklahoma will likely face 2 to 5 percent in cuts during FY13 as fixed costs will increase by over $9 million; and,

Whereas: Institutions across the state have taken all appropriate steps to cut budgets over the past five years with a total of $347.3 million of actual and projected cost savings from 2009-2013; and,

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma specifically has gone above and beyond by reallocating 12.25% of funding across colleges and departments over the past four years; and,

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma has had to increase tuition by 4.5% and 5% over the past two budget cycles, respectively, and,

Whereas: Federal stimulus funds that were received in the past two budget cycles will not be available to the State’s Higher Education, representing a loss of nearly $60 million; and,

Whereas: The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are requesting an increase of $34.7 million, or 3.7%, above FY12 appropriations to properly fund Higher Education at comparable levels to this fiscal year.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS THAT:
Section 1: The University of Oklahoma Student Association urges the importance of Higher Education funding.

Section 2: The University of Oklahoma Student Association urges the legislature of the State of Oklahoma to continue funding Higher Education appropriately.

Section 3: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with the UOSA Constitution.

Section 4: Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to:
The Honorable Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma
Mr. David L. Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma
Mr. Glen Johnson, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Representative Kris Steele, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
Representative Jeffery Hickman, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma House
Representative Dale Dewitt, Majority Leader of the Oklahoma House
Representative Scott Inman, Minority Leader of the Oklahoma House
Representative T.W. Shannon, Majority Leader-Designate of the Oklahoma House
Senator Brian Bingman, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate
Senator Mike Shulz, Majority Leader of the Oklahoma Senate
Senator Andrew Rice, Minority Leader of the Oklahoma Senate
Senator Sean Burrage, Minority Leader-Designate of the Oklahoma Senate
Oklahoma State Board of Regents for Higher Education
The Norman Transcript
The Oklahoma Daily
The Daily Oklahoman

Author(s): Representative Steve Sichterman, Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences District

Co-Author(s): Senator Jason Daft
UOSA Student Congress

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Submitted on a motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair of Senate: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Approved by UOSA President: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Approved by University President: ____________________________ Date: ____________