

**A Resolution Condemning the University Administration’s Efforts to Fund Strategic Initiatives Through a Reversion of Departmental Student Fee Money**

**WHEREAS** the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students at the University of Maryland (UMD), and

**WHEREAS** RHA advocates for student interests regarding mandatory and non-mandatory fees on the Committee for the Review of Student Fees (CRSF), and

**WHEREAS** RHA has a responsibility to inform and educate students about decisions made that impact student services and student fees, and

**WHEREAS** RHA has a responsibility to advocate for on-campus students within all departments that affect on-campus life, especially the departments of Resident Life, Residential Facilities, Dining Services, and Transportation Services, and

**WHEREAS** each of these departments keep funds for future or unforeseen projects designed to meet student need, and

**WHEREAS** during the 2019 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly, the University System of Maryland received a \$10 million budget reduction, which led to a reduction of \$3.9 million in funding for UMD, and

**WHEREAS** on July 1, 2019, a memorandum was sent to all deans and budget officers from the university provost and vice president of administration and finance informing them that the central campus would absorb the cut so that services would not be impacted, and

**WHEREAS** in this memorandum, all deans and budget officers were also informed that “5% of all campus fund balances will be moved to a ‘campus initiatives’ account managed by the university’s chief financial officer to support one-time strategic initiatives,” and

**WHEREAS** in a second memorandum sent on Oct. 15, 2019, the provost informed deans and budget officers that the reversion sweep would fund various different projects, including, but not limited to, Enterprise Resource Planning, a new engagement system called TerpEngage, replacement of the main power plant, hazardous waste removal, stormwater management improvement, and Greater College Park initiatives, and

**WHEREAS** this is an inappropriate use of student fee money, which is approved and collected for specific departmental operations and services, not for general university use or strategic initiatives that violates the CRSF process, and

46 **WHEREAS** despite the University losing \$3.9 million as a result of the budget reduction, the  
47 total reversion sweep collected \$22.98 million in total, and

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49 **WHEREAS** due to this reversion sweep, all students were and will be impacted by delayed  
50 services, renovations, and projects because departments now do not have sufficient funds, and

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52 **WHEREAS** Dining Services lost \$463,000 to the reversion, which was money provided by on-  
53 campus students with dining plans, which directly benefits students via facilities upgrades and  
54 accessibility projects, and

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56 **WHEREAS** Resident Life lost \$1,824,950 to the reversion, which was money provided by  
57 students living on campus that directly benefits students via residence hall upgrades and  
58 renovations, and

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60 **WHEREAS** due to the reversion, Resident Life told members of CRSF at the Feb. 19, 2020,  
61 meeting that they had to delay renovations, including both Garrett Hall and Montgomery Hall  
62 and the furniture and carpeting in some residence halls, and

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64 **WHEREAS** the Department of Transportation Services lost \$115,168 to the reversion, which  
65 was money provided by both a mandatory shuttle fee and non-mandatory parking fee, and

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67 **WHEREAS** on-campus residents are not only negatively impacted by the loss of funds of  
68 departments listed above but also uniquely impacted by all student affairs departments, and

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70 **WHEREAS** the Adele H. Stamp Student Union lost \$567,377 to the reversion, which was  
71 money provided by a mandatory student fee that directly benefits students via facility availability  
72 and programming, and

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74 **WHEREAS** the University Health Center lost \$179,065 to the reversion, which was money  
75 provided by a mandatory student fee that directly benefits students via health services and  
76 outreach programming, and

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78 **WHEREAS** the University Recreation & Wellness Department (RecWell) lost \$450,269 to the  
79 reversion, which was money provided by a mandatory student fee directly that benefits students  
80 via recreation space and fitness classes, and

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82 **WHEREAS** RecWell told CRSF representatives that continued reversions would lead to delayed  
83 services, projects, or a significant increase to the Campus Recreation fee, and

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85 **WHEREAS** the Student Government Association (SGA) lost \$61,322 to the reversion, which  
86 was money provided by the mandatory Student Activities Fee that directly benefits students via  
87 student group allocations and SGA initiatives, and

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89 **WHEREAS** many department executives have expressed concern over continued reversions and  
90 their impact on their student services in both CRSF meetings on Dec. 3, 2019 and Feb. 19, 2020,  
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93 **WHEREAS** many departments that receive student fees are primarily funded through these fees  
94 and thus can primarily only receive sufficient funds by increasing their student fee, and  
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96 **WHEREAS** many department executives have expressed concerns in both aforementioned  
97 CRSF meetings over the need to significantly increase student fees in order to cover the costs of  
98 potential future reversion plans, and  
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100 **WHEREAS** RHA believes that this reversion has prioritized strategic initiatives over the  
101 specific needs of on-campus students,  
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103 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that RHA formally urges the provost and vice president of  
104 administration and finance to exempt student fee-sourced fund balances in future reversions, and  
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106 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that RHA urges university administration to discuss potential  
107 future reversion plans in CRSF before implementation to ensure students can adequately provide  
108 input regarding campus projects and appropriations, and  
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110 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that RHA condemns the University for their reversion of  
111 critical funds away from departments that provide crucial services to both on- and off-campus  
112 students without acquiring adequate feedback and approval from these students.  
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