

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, TEMPE SENATE
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION 1

INTRODUCED BY

SENATOR DANIEL LOPEZ

THE COLLEGE

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*A RESOLUTION ON ASU'S FAILURE TO ACQUIRE AND DISTRIBUTE CARES ACT
FUNDING*

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe was created to provide a unified forum for inter-university dialogue , to organize student involvement, and to advocate for and administer services, resources, and programs that benefit the students of Arizona State University;

WHEREAS, on **MARCH 27th** the CARES act was signed into law, including the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) which allocated **\$63.5 million** to ASU for COVID

relief. **HALF** of this fund, **\$31.8 million at least, MUST** be used for direct cash grants to students by law whereas the other half of the funding *may* be used for administrative or other costs.

NOTING THAT, the prerequisite condition for the distribution of this \$63.5 million is for **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** to submit a plan for spending this funding to the **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**.

NOTING THAT, **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** has failed to submit a plan for this funding to the **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**, thus they have not received the funding.

NOTING THAT, in the time that **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** has failed to submit a spending plan, approximately 3 months, countless students from the Spring 2020 semester and the Summer 2020 semester have faced financial hardship and may no longer be ASU students in the Fall 2020 semester.

WHEREAS, the intention of the HEERF was to “[get] funding out the door quickly to college students who need it most.”¹ as stated by the Secretary of Education **BETSY DEVOS**.

NOTING THAT, **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** President **MICHAEL CROW** has stated that the school will use the funds “to help students stay in college, since schools have up to one year to spend the funds”² instead of the intended purpose of immediate financial relief.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, due to the administration's failure to immediately submit a spending plan and distribute funds, that we, the **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TEMPE** request **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** to **immediately** submit a plan for spending the HEERF funds to the department of education and upon receiving said funds begin immediate disbursement of the HEERF funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the disbursement of HEERF funds and the **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** financial assistance due to COVID-19 be adherent to the following requests listed in no particular order of importance:

- **All \$63.5 million** should be spent on direct cash grants to students
- All HEERF funding should be adjusted for need rather than a universal equal distribution
- Students who were enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester and/or the Summer 2020 semester but are no longer enrolled either from graduation or no longer continuing their education should be eligible to receive COVID-19 assistance cash grants.
- If any student is not eligible to receive HEERF funding as per the guidelines published by the department of education, **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** should make them eligible to receive direct cash grants from the university itself
 - For example, DACA students, undocumented students, international students, or previously enrolled students no longer continuing or finished with their education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to see that the above actions are successfully undertaken by the University, a meeting between representatives of the **Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe**, as well as any appropriate representatives of student organizations as determined by USG, and ASU administrators to **begin implementing these programs** should take place no later than **2 weeks** following the passing of this resolution.

BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this legislation be sent to Dr. Vogel by President Jacqueline Palmer by the following week of the passage of this legislation.

BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this legislation be presented at the next ASASU Council of Presidents Meeting by USGT President Jacqueline Palmer.