RESOLUTION URGING FOR A FORMAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
SA GOVERNMENT AND THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
RESOLUTION 22
April 13, 2015

SUBMITTED BY:  Adrian Petrov, Class of 2017 Senator
    SeQuoia Kemp, Senator-at-Large
SPONSORED BY:  Alex Wark, FA Protest Group Leader
    Hayley Weinberg, FA Protest Group Leader

WHEREAS, there has been a lack of communication and transparency between
students and the Financial Aid Office; and

WHEREAS, 682 people are members of “The Peaceful Protest of University of
Rochester’s Financial Aid System” group on Facebook; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of this group discussed with Senators the problems they
experienced with the Financial Aid Office, such as unexpected cuts to financial aid
packages, a disconnect between students and the Financial Aid Office, lack of
notification during the appeals process, high counselor turnover, and poor
advertisement of additional scholarships and financial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Dean Burdick addressed many of these problems at the Senate meeting
on October 20, 2014, which was the highest attended meeting of the year; and

WHEREAS, Senators and student leaders have consulted with Dean Burdick since
October 20th’s Senate meeting, negotiating ideas and solutions to some key problems;
and

WHEREAS, there is not currently a formal liaison between Students’ Association
Government and the Financial Aid Office, furthering the disconnect between students
and the Financial Aid Office; and
WHEREAS, students will likely encounter many of the same problems and questions regarding financial aid that were thoroughly addressed this year; and

WHEREAS, Dean Burdick agreed to explore several initiatives that will alleviate many problems, such as the following:

- Establishment of a Financial Aid College Committee with faculty from the Financial Aid Office and passionate students to discuss larger issues and ideas, such as early warnings for students receiving financial aid cuts and reform for the appeals process,

- A scholarship available after financial aid packages are sent out, for students who received large cuts to their packages,

- A feedback mechanism assessing financial aid counselors for students to respond to and describe their experiences with communication,

- A section on the Financial Aid website or social media for updates, frequently asked questions, and other helpful information for students, and

- The relocation of the main reception desk for Financial Aid to the 2nd floor of Wallis Hall.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Students’ Association Senate urges the 2015-2016 Executive Branch to take over communication with the Financial Aid Office and see through the initiatives listed above.

[Signatures]

Eudora Erickson  
Speaker, Students’ Association Senate

Antonette Esce  
President, Students’ Association

SENATE VOTE TOTALS:
Yes: 18  No: 0  Abs: 0  Date: 4/13/15