Statement in Support of the Creation of the Financial Aid College Committee
Senate Statement No. 11

SUBMITTED BY:  
Rebecca Mooney ’18, Senator  
Daniel Matthews ’17, Senator

CO-SPONSORS:  
Rochelle Sun ’19, Legislative Aide

ENDORSED BY:  
Students’ Association Senate Student Life Committee  
Jonathan Burdick, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid  
Nirupama Murali, Executive Director of Student Life

WHEREAS, the University of Rochester is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all admitted students; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of tuition for the University of Rochester during the 2015–2016 academic year is $47,450\(^1\), which exceeds the national average for private four-year institutions by $15,045\(^2\); and,

WHEREAS, 93%\(^3\) of students in 2013 lived in on-campus residential housing, which carries an additional fee of $14,364\(^4\) for the 2015–2016 academic year; and,

WHEREAS, student concerns regarding Financial Aid, including a lack of feedback, the changing of financial packages without clear reasoning, the inability for students to apply for any other aid after the release of decisions, and annually increasing tuition rates, have not been thoroughly addressed; and,

WHEREAS, during Meliora Weekend in 2014, students created the organization titled, “Peaceful Protest of the Financial Aid System,” and organized a silent protest outside of Wilson Commons in response to the shortcomings of the Financial Aid System\(^5\); and,

\(^{1}\) https://www.rochester.edu/adminfinance/bursar/RCFees15-16.html
\(^{3}\) http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/the-short-jist-college/articles/2015/03/03/10-national-universities-where-students-usually-live-on-campus
\(^{4}\) See footnote 1
WHEREAS, multiple meetings have been held to discuss issues with the Financial Aid system, including a student Q&A with the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jonathan Burdick on October 20, 2014 and an informational session on November 3, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, in response, Dean Burdick has pledged to create a more transparent Financial Aid Process for both incoming and current students and to increase communication between Financial Aid Counselors and students⁶; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Student’s Association Government supports the creation of the Financial Aid College Committee, to be comprised of student ambassadors that liaise between the Financial Aid Office and the rest of the student body while also supplying students with comprehensive financial aid information and feedback.

Signature of Confirmation
Ethan Bidna ’16
Speaker, Students’ Association Senate

Signature of Approval
Grant Dever ’16
President, Students’ Association

Senate Votes: Yes: 15 No: 0 Abs: 1 Date: 02/29/2014

⁶http://www.campustimes.org/2014/10/02/student-organization-protests-financial-aid-system/