



The Academic Senate of  
California State University, Fresno

April 29, 2024

California  
State  
University,  
Fresno

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**Resolution decrying diversion of funds from Academics to Athletics, and in support of returning diverted funds to Academic Affairs, including support for faculty scholarly and creative activities.**

**WHEREAS:** The allocation to Athletics from the State of California General Fund and student tuition has increased 390% in 13 years, from \$3.6 million in 2009-10 to \$18.1 million in 2021-2022, in stark contrast to the static trend of the allocation to Academic Affairs during the same period;

**WHEREAS:** The allocation to Athletics from student fees rose 1416% from \$288,506 in 2007-2008 to \$4.3 million in 2021-2022, the largest percentage increase for a NCAA Division 1 public university during this time;

**WHEREAS:** \$92 (69.7%) of the current \$132 Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee, charged to each Fresno State student, funds Athletics, but only \$30 (22.7%) funds IRA projects, and \$10 (7.6%) supports academic programs;

**WHEREAS:** Fresno State budgeted \$5.3 million to Athletics, but only \$730,000 to Academic Affairs from tuition reserve funds for 2022-2023;

**WHEREAS:** There has been no progress in increasing funds to support academic research;

**WHEREAS:** We are told that increasing Athletics expenditures, Athletics budget deficit, and increasing diversion of funds from academics to athletics is market driven by being an NCAA Division I university;

**WHEREAS:** Programs funded by Academic Affairs are told they must spend within their means in what has been referred to as a "Zero Sum Game", while allocations to Athletics continue to increase;

**WHEREAS:** The mission of the university is to "empower students for success...";

**WHEREAS:** Faculty research supports student success in and outside of the classroom and advances the university's reputation and its contribution to knowledge and the resolution of local, national and global challenges;

**WHEREAS:** All faculty must engage in research to stay current in their fields and to advance and support their disciplines, and tenured and tenure-track faculty are expected to produce scholarly and creative works to achieve tenure and promotion

**WHEREAS:** Student and faculty success and wellbeing depend on adequate time available to conduct their academic activities, yet most students must obtain part or full-time jobs on top of their full-time academic workload and faculty receive no regular workload assignment for research beyond the first two years of appointment, requiring faculty to volunteer time for this essential academic activity;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:** Fresno State should change its priorities to provide needed support to Academic Affairs to promote student success instead of diverting a rapidly-increasing amount of the Level A allocation to Athletics;

and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Some of the re-prioritized funding should be used to fund assigned time sufficient to support faculty, readjusting workload to align with the demands of their mandated scholarly and creative activities that are also an important part of empowering student success;

and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** That the reprioritized funding should also address the inadequacy in faculty support for the costs of staying abreast of our disciplines, including attendance at professional conferences as well as engaging in professional development and publishing and other creative activities;

and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Fresno State should reallocate funds from student fees so that the majority of these fees fund instructionally-related activities and projects instead of Athletics;

and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Fresno State should become a regional and national leader in stopping runaway athletics spending, rather than being one of the worst national examples of following the now-accepted budgetary practice that is clearly detrimental to the primary academic mission of any university;

and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT:** This resolution be distributed to the President of California State University, Fresno; the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of California State University, Fresno; the Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer of California State University, Fresno; the Interim Director of Athletics; the CSU Chancellor; the CSU Board of Trustees; the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU); the California Faculty Association (CFA); Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) of California State University, Fresno; *The Fresno Bee*; *GV Wire*; *KVPR*; *KFCF*; and *The Collegian* at California State University, Fresno.