

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the public senior colleges and universities have been required to absorb a reduction in State funding in excess of \$25 million over the past three years (see attached table); and

Whereas, all State agencies have been required by the Budget and Control Board to reduce 1981-82 appropriations by 2.19% to avert an anticipated fiscal year-end deficit; and

Whereas, the decision of the Budget and Control Board was announced after five months of the fiscal year had elapsed, which resulted in a 3.75% reduction in the remainder of the appropriation and imposes a tremendous burden on Higher Education institutions as well as all State agencies; and

Whereas, this amounts to \$5,860,022 for the public senior colleges and universities, making their total reduction in excess of \$31 million over the past three years; and

Whereas, the State currently has a reserve fund totalling \$76,498,656 which is 4% of the 1981-82 budgeted general revenue (\$1,918,191,401); and

Whereas, 3% of the 1981-82 budgeted general revenue equals \$57,545,742; and

Whereas, many legislators and elected officials believe that a 3% reserve fund is sufficient; and

Whereas, the difference between the current reserve fund and a 3% reserve fund is \$18,952,914, which is 47% of the \$40 million reduction required of all State agencies;

Be it now Resolved, That the Commission on Higher Education recommends that the Budget and Control Board and the General Assembly appropriate a pro-rata share for the public senior colleges and universities of \$18,952,914 from the reserve fund, that amount being \$2,754,210 or 47% of the proposed reduction for the public senior colleges and universities. Provided that no public senior college or university will place a surcharge on the students of these institutions; and with the understanding that no funds from the reserve fund will be released until and unless a deficit is certain.