

January 26, 2018: Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee Forum

Greetings, my name is _____, I represent the MCC Foundation Board of Directors.

We bring to your attention that we have met with President Ojakian and Board of Regent members at least twice to assure us that the Student First Proposal would not affect the Foundation. President Ojakian also came to MCC to meet with us privately and promised that this plan would not impact our Foundations. Yet, here we are. This Student First consolidation contradicts what we have heard in prior meetings and directly impacts our work and will make our success nearly impossible in the future.

To begin, the Student First consolidation plan is missing a full and comprehensive cost analysis, and the cuts to support our Foundation were made without our involvement—as the fiscal leaders of the Foundation we needed to be involved in this process, to help find alternative solutions. Expediting this Student First consolidation as it stands now is unwise and unnecessary.

There is an alarming omission of several Development-Foundation positions in the organizational chart and the budget line item for the Foundation has been drastically reduced to reflect just one diminished full-time position, where we currently have four full time and two part time staff that help raise, process, and steward approximately \$1 million in contributions a year. If this one solitary position is the **'only'** position included in the Foundation budget supporting the complexity of Community Relations, Grants and Development—this is not only alarming, but unconscionable.

To give you an example, here is a brief list of tasks that the Foundation staff is responsible for:

- Fundraising, major gifts, and planned giving strategy and solicitations
- Mandated State/Federal and audit reporting
- alumni relations
- donor cultivation & stewardship
- scholarship application and disbursement management, more than 250 a year
- donor gift database management
- Foundation Board committee management
- Working with investment advisory services
- management of funding requests from college faculty/programs/fiscal departments for equipment upgrades, course materials, programming enhancements (for student improved experiences),

Should the MCC Foundation be forced to shrink, or worse dismantle, as it would if this plan continues, it would translate into the reduction of hundreds of scholarships each year and the suspension of hundreds of thousands of dollars in supplemental support for the college requests for new equipment, program enhancements, for our students with disabilities, for our food pantry and for supplemental student services. Most of our scholarship students would not be enrolled at MCC if not for the funding we provide them, the ramifications of this would mean a further reduction in enrollment numbers.

The overall staffing identified in your proposal and the loss of leadership and autonomy at MCC will have a direct and immediate impact on our ability to fundraise, off-set costs for students or even know where MCC needs our help.

We are well aware of the state budget deficit. We want to be part of the solution for MCC, and all our colleges, to maintain and grow the excellent education we provide. This consolidation plan in total lacks a comprehensive business plan and a substantive financial analysis, along with the implications of what is lost, or what could be accomplished under policy changes without a merger, and does an injustice to our students and our Foundations.

We are proud to support our college and our community. The work we do is critical to the state—we are the voice of engaged business people and local stakeholders, and conduits to MCC's success, please reconsider this Student First consolidation, and request our involvement with further discussions or alternative solutions.

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