

Resolution Urging Consultation and Collaboration around HEERF Funding

Whereas the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, the CRRSAA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion expeditiously provided last spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136¹;

Whereas the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic²;

Whereas Laney College has been allocated \$8,854,083 in HEERF II funding, with a minimum of \$1,656,735 as direct aid for students; the college has been allocated \$15,664,000 in HEERF III funding, with a minimum of \$7,832,000 as direct aid for students;

Whereas the colleges are responsible for managing their allocations, and institutional planning and budget are part of the senate's 10+1 purview;

Whereas there was little consultation with faculty, outside of a request for proposals, for previous CARES funding;

Whereas the CARES expenditures presented at the May 18 Laney College Faculty Senate meeting were not made with faculty consultation;

¹ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/crrsaa.html>

² <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arp.html>

Be it resolved that we request a more rigorous planning process, as well as transparency, around spending HEERF funds in addition to the survey that already exists;

Be it resolved that our campus create a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for faculty to request funding that falls within expenditure guidelines;

Be it further resolved that the administration provide regular updates to the Laney College Faculty Senate about expenditures during the Fall 2021 semester.