Resolution decrying diversion of funds from Academics to Athletics, and in support of returning diverted funds to instruction, 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: 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: Tenure-track faculty are expected to produce scholarly and creative works, an essential part of empowering student success, in order to achieve tenure and promotion, but receive no workload assignment for it, 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-priortized funding should be used to fund RSCA assigned time sufficient to support a majority of tenure-track 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: 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 FINALLY 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.