CARNEGIE: Members of the Board, faculty, students, and President Noren, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. I’d like to introduce myself. My name is Amanda Carnegie, I am the current President of the Wayne State Student Senate. I’m entering my fourth year hear at Wayne State. I am a marketing major, international studies co-major and Spanish minor. I am also a resident advisor, on the council of my sorority and a part of the American Advertising Federation, and just as a side note, I love Wayne State with all my heart.

I wish to speak to you on behalf of the students and the Student Senate today and I would like to present to you a resolution that we passed along with a quick letter. Dear President Noren and Board of Governors, as President of the Wayne State University Student Senate, I present to you a resolution unanimously passed by the Student Senate in support of the proposed 5.4 tuition increase. After much discussion and education about the university budget, the Student Senate stands united in belief that this tuition increase can enhance our academic opportunities. Although tuition increases are never an easy decision, the Student Senate acknowledges the important impact this increase can have on the quality of a Wayne State education. Furthermore, this resolution calls for specific calls for action from the University. The Student Senate looks forward to working with the Board of Governors and the administration to accomplish these initiatives. The Student Senate is grateful for your support and leadership for Wayne State University.

And now the resolution passed on June 17th, 2010 to declare the Student Senate’s official platform on the proposed university budget for the 2011, er, 2010-2011 academic year.

WHEREAS the Student Senate as dedicated to being the voice of students at Wayne State University must take a stance on the fiscal decisions affecting tuition and how it will be distributed and,

WHEREAS tuition costs have a large impact on students and their families, Wayne State University needs to be responsible when imparting increases, especially in the current economic climate and,

WHEREAS need-based financial aid must be increased to assist students in this current economic situation and,

WHEREAS those students not receiving need-based financial aid must receive some compensation for increased tuition including academic enhancement in the form of more full-time faculty and,

WHEREAS the state of Michigan has continually showed a disinvestment in higher education, cutting appropriations in higher education by over 3% in fiscal year 2010 which
equated to a loss of over $6 million for Wayne State and forcing the university to generate funds elsewhere and noting the state is expected to cut appropriations for higher education again in fiscal year 2011 leaving another shortfall in expected revenue sources and further noting the university needs to generate income to support its prestigious academic programs and campus atmosphere,

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Student Senate supports the proposed the 5.4% tuition increase so long as it is used for increasing need-based and merit-based financial aid and hiring at least 22 additional full-time faculty. In supporting this increase we call for the follow: a commitment to extend library hours to include the expansion of 24 hour student space, well-informed staff motivated to interact with students. We continue to be discouraged by negative comments we hear from our peers about their interactions with many university offices, a comprehensive review of the administration, budgeting, and programming of campus activities. This review must include evaluations of the current offerings, budgets and administrative structure, building and space usage, campus operations and entertainment costs involved with presenting campus activities and late night and weekend student life options. We expect that there be student representation on each of our calls for action. We will evaluate the success of these action items as we consider supporting a tuition increase for the fiscal year 2010 academic year. It is our expectation that these items will have already been implemented in the 2010-2011 academic year or included in the fiscal year 2012 budget.

Be it finally resolved, the Student Senate will continue to fight for higher education funding from the state of Michigan to keep tuition low while continuing the academic prestige that Wayne State University provides.

This is the first time the Student Senate has acted to produce and pass a resolution to take a stand on the issue of tuition. The student voice is stronger than ever and wishes to be heard. I really want to emphasize the importance of these initiatives I mentioned in this resolution both for students and faculty. These initiatives help with recruitment, help with retention. They really enhance the quality of our education and improve the Wayne State University experience. The students here value their education and their time here at Wayne State University. I have full confidence that with a unified force and a unified effort we can work together to achieve these initiatives and help improve Wayne State University.

Thank you for your time.