

To Preserve Affordability

Through the four successive years of in-state tuition freezes, Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly have made it evident that preserving affordability for higher education students remains a priority. Towson University's Student Government Association is grateful for both the actions and message of the State.

Eighty percent of Towson University students are proud Maryland residents and each year approximately 2,000 transfer students choose to attend Towson to complete their degree.

"I transferred to Towson from another Maryland institution because it provided me a high quality education at an affordable price that was comfortable for my family."

—Megan Norris

President of TU's Transfer Students Organization

ACTION: Towson University students urge the General Assembly to approve The University System of Maryland and Towson University budgets as submitted by Governor O'Malley. Additional cuts to the budget allocation will further shift the cost of education to tuition. We understand it may be time for a nominal tuition increase, but students cannot bear large tuition increases that would be caused by budget cuts. Need-based financial aid from the State should match any potential increase in tuition.

Towson University students strongly urge the Governor and the General Assembly support the dedicated Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF) to aid in keeping college affordable for Maryland residents.



The SGA represents over 17,000 undergraduate students at Towson University.

To Protect and Promote Access

A Towson University education is in demand. Record numbers of students are seeking an affordable, quality education. Even though the university has grown, its SAT and GPA profiles remain strong.

Affordability is vital in protecting and promoting access for prospective and current Towson students.

Last year, due to budget constraints, Towson University had the task of keeping enrollment growth within one percent. Despite receiving 15,423 applications—a university record—Towson only enrolled 2,405 freshmen. Limited enrollment growth is necessary to preserve the State funds received per student and continue to offer the quality education that is expected at Towson, but more and more Maryland citizens are looking to Towson as their first-choice institution. Access funding is crucial at this time.

As the state's metropolitan university, Towson wishes to continually reflect the diverse surrounding region.

To meet the demands of an ever-changing job market, Towson must continue to create more relevant, innovative programs.

ACTION: Towson University students recommend the General Assembly support the University System of Maryland and Towson University's operating budget to protect access to higher education and meet the demands of the work force in Maryland.



Civic Concerns

Towson University students support:

- Assistance in raising awareness about the 2010 Census and the importance of college students being counted in their community.
- Focus on economic development and job creation for recent college graduates entering the work force.
- Increased community engagement and outreach activities where college students can assist local nonprofit organizations in their missions.
- State and local funding and policies, like improved lighting and neighborhood development, that encourage a safer environment at Towson University and its surrounding communities.
- Environmentally-friendly transportation measures that include, but are not limited to, car sharing and improved bicycle infrastructure.
- Expanded rights and measures promoting full civil recognition for couples enrolled in the state domestic partnership program, in order to recruit, retain and serve the most highly qualified individuals.
- The end of occupancy laws that restrict students to apartment complexes when more economically feasible options for off-campus housing are available.



Dear Policymakers,

The Student Government Association of Towson University presents the 2010 legislative agenda on behalf of Towson's 17,148 undergraduate students. Cognizant of our responsibilities as the leaders of tomorrow, the Student Government continues its tradition of a student-driven legislative agenda. This year's legislative agenda reflects the current needs and issues affecting Towson University students.

We will continue our efforts in addressing student concerns pertinent to higher education as they arise in the General Session.

The students of Towson University look forward to working with Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly to better benefit the future of the state of Maryland by ensuring our higher educational system remains in the best interest of its students.



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2010 Legislative Agenda

