Resolution (draft) based on a Resolution proposed by John Harms (AAUP, Missouri) for consideration at the AAUP Annual Meeting on March 5, 2005 in Jefferson City.

Request to representatives of the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates on February 7-8, 2005 in Jefferson City: Faculty Senates of Universities in Missouri are asked to consider and endorse, after modifications deemed appropriate, the resolution presented below.

Appropriations for Public Higher Education in Missouri

The [faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, represented by the UMKC Faculty Senate] is disturbed by the current state of public higher education in the state. Consider the following educational indicators:

- Missouri has the lowest per capita funding support for higher education among its surrounding states: MO=$321, KS=$496, AR=$449, OK=$477, IA=$507, IL=$411.
- Appropriations for Missouri’s public institutions of higher education were cut $140 million in FY2003 and FY2004.
- Higher education cuts have resulted in a $1,700 average tuition increase for MO’s public 4 year institutions, affecting 80,000 Missouri students.
- Missouri ranks second in the nation in tuition hikes in the last two years.
- Between 1991 and 2003, Full Time Equivalent (FTE) student enrollment in Missouri’s public colleges and universities declined by more than 3%, while the national trend was an increase of 18.7%. Missouri is one of only 3 states to have an FTE decline in this period.
- Missouri’s state support for public higher education has declined as a percentage of the overall state budget from 8.3% in FY1980 to 6.8% in FY2000 to 5.8% in FY2003.

These indicators reveal that public higher education in Missouri is not funded adequately to achieve its mission. Accordingly, [the UMKC Faculty Senate] urges the Legislature to develop an adequate and equitable funding formula that is tied to a consistent and reliable revenue source.