

# Power to the Students!

## WE THE STUDENTS OF EMERSON COLLEGE DEMAND THE FOLLOWING:

### 1. INCREASE FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY.

*a. BECAUSE PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS ABOUT THE STATE OF EMERSON'S FINANCES ARE NOT EASILY DIGESTIBLE FOR STUDENTS.*

- i. An example of a way to fulfill this demand is an annual financial town hall. This event would not only review the annual Emerson financial summary but also make the information accessible for students.*

### 2. INCREASE THE QUALITY OF STUDENT LIFE BY EXPANDING STUDENT ACCESS TO EMERSON'S RESOURCES.

*a. BECAUSE STUDENTS STRUGGLE TO ACCESS RESOURCES THAT EMERSON PROMISES AND SHOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE TO THEM. THE EDC IS OVERBOOKED AND ACCESS IS LIMITED TO CERTAIN MAJORS. PERFORMING ARTS, FILM, AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALL LEFT TO COMPETE FOR TIME IN A FEW THEATERS WITH SMALL CAPACITIES– EVEN WHEN LARGER STAGES ARE VACANT.*

- i. An example of a way to fulfill this demand is through a space audit to assess and identify how spaces are being used within Emerson and how students can gain more access. Another is funding co-curricular organizations to have their own equipment for their projects, so there is no need to use the EDC for non-academic classes.*

### 3. INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES.

*a. BECAUSE WE COMMITTED TO EMERSON BELIEVING WE COULD AFFORD TO COMPLETE OUR EDUCATION AT THIS INSTITUTION. WITH TUITION INCREASES EVERY YEAR, THE COST OF TUITION IS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS HIGHER THAN WHEN WE ENTERED EMERSON. THIS HAS FORCED STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO MAKE TOUGH FINANCIAL DECISIONS AND CONTINUALLY ADJUST THEIR PLANS FOR PAYMENT.*

- i. Examples of ways to fulfill this demand include increasing scholarships proportionally with tuition increases and advertising these extra funding opportunities, making financial aid accessible for international students, and holding seminars, and providing assistance to help students apply for scholarships and manage their finances.*

### 4. ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISPROPORTIONATE HARM CAUSED BY TUITION INCREASES.

*a. BECAUSE TUITION INCREASES DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT LOWER-INCOME STUDENTS AS WELL AS STUDENTS FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. EMERSON PREACHES BEING PROGRESSIVE, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE FOR ALL DEMOGRAPHICS; NONETHELESS, IT'S A PWI BECAUSE OF*

*HOW EXPENSIVE IT IS. NOT EVERY EMERSON STUDENT HAS THE PRIVILEGE TO BE UNAFFECTED BY A TUITION INCREASE.*

- i. An example of how to fulfill this demand is to conduct institutional research on how tuition increases affect specific demographics within the Emerson community. *It is Emerson's responsibility to identify and address these systemic inequities.*

**5. INCREASE STUDENT REPRESENTATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES.**

- a. *BECAUSE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND HOUSING ACCOUNT FOR 89% OF EMERSON'S ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE. IF WE FUND THE SCHOOL, WE SHOULD HAVE A SAY IN HOW OUR MONEY IS SPENT BY THE COLLEGE.*

- i. An example of how to fulfill this demand is to appoint a voting student representative to the Board of Trustees. Report to the entire student body what specific funds from the tuition increase are actually going back to students directly. Bring back open breakfast with the Board of Trustees.

The examples in each of the demands listed are not the only exclusive solutions to fulfill each of our demands. They should be used as requests the students want to see fulfilled, but also as a starting point from brainstorming new solutions and ways to fulfill the demands.

**IMPROVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE BEFORE YOU INCREASE  
TUITION!**

**YOU HAVE UNTIL APRIL 13, 2022 TO RESPOND TO YOUR STUDENT  
BODY.**