Can Harvard afford our financial proposals?

We are all aware of the effects of recent federal actions on Harvard's budget. The UAW (HGSU's parent union) filed first to recover Harvard's federal research money, and most recently helped win a crucial funding decision in federal court.

Harvard says:

"Supporting cut and paused federal funding was expensive"

> Harvard mobilized only $250M to support research funding (<0.5% of investments + endowment), even as departments laid off staff and implemented harsh austerity. The majority of cut and paused funds have been returned to Harvard.

"The endowment is illiquid, Harvard can't just take the money out"

> Harvard demonstrated their ability to raise $750M via a bond sale, but has only utilized 1/3 of this amount. In addition to the $6B+ in their general operating account, they have $4.5B in "undrawn liquidity" from credit facilities and commercial paper.

"Endowment funds have strings attached, Harvard can't spend the money"

> Harvard has $9.6B in "[board designated] endowment funds without restriction." Harvard also recently demonstrated that it is open to fundraising specifically to support graduate workers.

"What about the increase in the endowment tax?"

> The 8% endowment tax (not in effect until 2026) on the realized + unrealized endowment net investment income of $5.8B (worst-case scenario) in 2025 would be $460M. The endowment grew by $3.7B in 2025.

*All data from Harvard's 2025 Financial Report