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**Academic Senate**

408 Hovey Hall

Campus Box 1830

Normal, IL 61790-1830

Phone: (309) 438-8735

WHEREAS, the percentage of state revenue spent on higher education in Illinois is significantly lower than the national average spent by other states;

WHEREAS, the state appropriations to higher education institutions in Illinois, adjusted for inflation, have declined 24% over the past twenty years;

WHEREAS, as a result of the decrease in state appropriations for institutions, tuition for Illinois public universities has increased to cover this deficit;

WHEREAS, the increasing cost of attendance and the decreasing state investments have led to a pattern of Illinois students choosing to attend colleges out of state or not at all;

WHEREAS, attending college should be attainable to all Illinois residents, regardless of their economic status;

WHEREAS, according to a 2024 Bloomington Normal Economic Development Council Report, Illinois State University supports over 9,700 jobs and generates an output of $1 billion across McLean County; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed funding plan detailed in SB 13/HB 1581 will provide a funding system that provides equitable, adequate, and stable funding for public universities in Illinois;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate of Illinois State University supports the proposed SB 13/HB 1581 Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act. These bills will lift the financial burden of administering and attending public universities in Illinois.

*Adopted by the Academic Senate of Illinois State University on 4-23-2025*