

Resolution concerning the Grove endowment

Adopted in the GSOE Faculty Meeting

of Dec. 12, 2013

The budget of the Grove School of Engineering at City College is under severe stress while its enrollment remains healthy. This stress is a result of the College's overall fiscal condition and the fiscal impact of the Williams' administration's handling of the transfer of the doctoral programs from the Graduate Center. The Grove endowment is a resource that has had a major impact on enhancing the educational and research quality of the GSoE, as was intended by Dr. Grove. The endowment and its income must be protected from pressures to use it to offset shortfalls in the regular operating budgets of the GSoE or the rest of the College. In order to do this, we must understand how these funds have been used in the past and place appropriate controls on how they are used in the future; and

- Whereas a number of faculty members have requested at different times from City College Administrators during GSOE Faculty meetings a detailed accounting of the income and expenditures of the Grove endowment;
- Whereas faculty requests for this information, although promised by different officers of the College at different instances, was not as yet voluntarily provided to the Faculty;
- Whereas an official request under the New York Freedom of Information Law had to be filed by an individual faculty member in order to obtain inter alia information on the Grove Endowment and other financial data related to the operations of the GSOE ;
- Whereas the response of the City College Administration to the FOIL request consisted of providing for the Grove Endowment only a number of unconsolidated documents that fail to give a clear picture of the financial status of the endowment;
- Whereas the original terms of the Grove gift stipulates that all expenditures from the Grove Endowment be overseen by a management committee including the Dean of Engineering;
- Whereas the Dean of Engineering is obligated by the terms of the Grove gift to prepare an annual report detailing, inter alia, the expenditures from the gift;
- Whereas a number of entries in the documents provided under the FOIL request could not be confirmed to have been properly authorized by the Dean of Engineering and the School P&B Committee; and
- Whereas the Faculty of the GSOE is the true and authentic voice representing the interests of the School, the public guardian of the integrity of the School's academic programs, and by implication the watchdog entrusted under the overall authority of the College President and the University Trustees with monitoring the acquisition and disposal of the School's assets; therefore

Be it resolved that:

- An urgent request by this Faculty be directed to the Office of the Vice President for Finance to provide immediately an integrated and clear report detailing the income and expenditures from the Grove Endowment since its inception to the present;
- The President and the Provost be informed of the strong disapproval of the GSOE Faculty to any future step intended to raid the Grove endowment for any expenditure not authorized by the Dean and P&B Committee of the School of Engineering;

- The GSOE Personnel and Budget committee be tasked with the appropriate monitoring of the Grove endowment; and
- The CUNY Central Administration and Board of Trustees get briefed on the status of the Grove Endowment and the possible ramifications and impact of the present situation, if not corrected, on the future ability of the GSOE to augmenting its endowment.