WHEREAS, the Academic Plan of the Ohio State University aims to “help build Ohio’s future,” “significantly strengthen the scope and effectiveness of our commitment to P-12 public education,” and “enhance and better serve the student body,” among other goals; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate asserts that proposed constitutional limits on state expenditures would severely restrict the state’s ability to invest in vital public services, including P-12 and higher education, which are critical to the state’s economic growth and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate believes that a constitutional amendment for a Tax Expenditure Limitation (TEL) that permanently and arbitrarily restricts state spending by state institutions such as universities, their medical facilities, their athletic programs, and their student support programs, would unintentionally restrict such programs in their expenditures of independent income; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate is aware of the damage inflicted upon vital public services in the state of Colorado by a measure similar to TEL, known as the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights, and the great harm the measure had on that state’s P-12 and higher education systems; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate acknowledges that the state of Ohio has a long and proud tradition of making public higher education obtainable by all its citizens regardless of income, and that Colorado’s fiscal and social records demonstrate how constitutional expenditure limitations jeopardize this tradition; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate believes that access to affordable high quality educational opportunities, which would be restricted by constitutional expenditure limitations, is increasingly necessary for Ohioans to succeed in today’s ever changing and competitive global economic environment; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate respects the role the Ohio Constitution assigns to the State Legislature, whose members are held accountable by a popular vote of their constituents, to determine state fiscal priorities, on an annual basis, in the interest of the people of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the University Senate expresses its serious concern about a proposed constitutional expenditure limitation that would restrict public university’s authority to invest non-tax dollars for the betterment of their institutions, and restrict the state’s ability to invest
in higher education, thus diminishing the state’s and individual Ohioans’ abilities to compete in today’s knowledge-based economy,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate hereby formally opposes the Tax and Expenditure Limitation proposal to establish constitutional fiscal limitations on the State of Ohio, and prefers to afford the elected legislature the right to ensure fiscally sound policies to build Ohio’s future.