



Chair Cowles, members of the Board of Trustees,

First, we want to congratulate the new additions to the system office. At Students United, as the association representing state university students, we strongly value the relationships we are able to have with the leadership of the system office, and we know these relationships inform the successes of students. We are excited to get to know you, partner with you, and support you in the work you do.

Students United is also excited to see the results of the legislature, including exception granted by the legislature relating to the opportunity for colleges and universities to incorporate the online tuition differential into tuition if the process is revenue neutral. Students have been advocating for the removal of this fee for multiple years as it helps to obscure the true costs of our higher education experience and can disproportionately impact numerous groups of students. We encourage the Trustees and System Office to help provide resources and guidance to our institutions about taking advantage of this opportunity and encourage our universities to transition out their online tuition differential fee.

Regarding the equity scorecard, we have strongly supported this effort and thank the system office's Equity & Inclusion office and campus working group members for their hard work on this. Data is an opportunity to better understand and improve upon the discrepancies of our system, and we are eager to be partners with the system and campuses on the efforts that will come from this. Disaggregated and intersectional data needs to become the standard if we are going to achieve the goals of Equity 2030 and we are really excited to be a part of the conversation.

This data is going to be so helpful in the work around recruitment and retention of low income, first generation, and students of color. We saw the higher education working group's interest in funding the Direct Admissions Pilot Program, an important endeavor to increase the recruitment and admission of underrepresented student populations. We hope we can be involved in the development of this pilot. In order to retain that increasingly diverse class of students, we need to ensure we remain affordable, well-resourced, and are rapidly tackling the inequitable gaps in outcomes for our marginalized students.

With this, June is the final month of my term as Chair of Students United, it has been an unprecedented year, full of challenges that I would never have expected to have to take on during my term, but I could not be prouder of how our organization has risen to this challenge. I want to give my final thanks to all the students that have worked throughout this year to make sure the voices of students are not forgotten, and a continued thank you to our staff who have had to adapt in numerous ways to take on the changes this year has brought upon us. Where my term might be over my advocacy on behalf of students has still just started and I look forward to finally meeting all of you at some future point next year as I continue in my advocacy journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan McNicholes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan McNicholes, 2020-2021 State Chair