

# Students United for Academics

## Un Pronunciamento

Thesis: We are here to demonstrate our belief that education and the process of learning in a classroom is of utmost importance, both here and now at the University of Northern Iowa and for the future of education. Allowing that all endeavors of the human mind are interrelated and interdependent upon one another; we recognize that education and the variety of academic pursuits are a necessity to the creation of a fuller, stronger, and more just society.

We corroborate our thesis with the University of Northern Iowa's Mission Statement:

*It is imperative that the quality of the university's instruction be maintained and enhanced though increasingly strong emphasis on:*

- (1) General or liberal education as the most essential ingredient for the undergraduate student,*
- (2) The central importance and complementary relationship of teaching and research,*
- (3) Enrichment of instruction through extensive clinical, laboratory and field experiences, and independent study, and*
- (4) Development of the life of the university community itself as an effective educational force.*

Considering the above, we state our core principles:

1. We urge the Iowa State Legislature, Board of Regents, and UNI Administration to invest in Iowans and make education their utmost priority.
2. We recognize that President Ben Allen and Provost Gloria Gibson are under unique pressures from the Board of Regents and the State of Iowa to make significant cuts to the UNI budget. Both the President and the Provost have expressed their support and appreciation of our efforts. They recognize our concerns as legitimate and valid.
3. The lack of transparency and dialogue on the part of the university administration during these budget negotiations has created an atmosphere of concern and uncertainty about the future of UNI.
4. We respectfully request a context for the budget cuts. What are the administrations, Board of Regents, and State of Iowa's long-term goals for the university and how will they be implemented?

5. We advocate the democratization of the educational process. Individual members of the UNI community have been marginalized by the current process at the university and state levels.
6. We urge the balance of the budget cuts to be distributed more equitably between academic programs, auxiliary programs, and extra-curricular activities.

We are articulating, demonstrating, and exemplifying our grievances by holding a Study Vigil on the ground floor of Seerley Hall in front of the President and Provost offices, until Friday at 7pm. These principles were compiled from the myriad of participants attending this vigil. They include undergrad and graduate students, faculty members, staff, and the Cedar Valley community. This body represents a cohesive unity advocating for the academic future of UNI.

We appreciate the invitation from NISG to come and address you. However, we feel that leaving our Study Vigil violates the core principles expressed in this document. We invite all members of the NISG to come to our vigil and begin a dialogue between our organizations. We hope that we can find a common ground with our principles in order to advocate for the academic future of the University of Northern Iowa.

Thank you for your time.

Best Wishes,

Students United For Academics

Scientia potentia est: Knowledge is power!