

**The University of Michigan  
University Senate  
Motion #042726-3**

**Resolution on the Use of Early Decision Admissions**

**Whereas** the University of Michigan last year implemented a new admissions procedure for undergraduates known as “Early Decision” whereby prospective students, if offered admission, are obligated to accept the offer;

**Whereas** prospective students applying through Early Decision do not know what financial aid they may receive prior to committing;

**Whereas** Early Decision admission advantages students from affluent families who are not dependent on financial aid to attend college;<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas** Early Decision admission financially advantages academic institutions whilst denying prospective students the ability to properly consider offers from other colleges;<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas** the decision to implement the Early Decision mechanism was taken with little or no consultation with the faculty, students, and staff;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the University immediately halt the use of Early Decision admissions pending broad and substantive consultation with its stakeholders, including both faculty and students, to determine whether this admissions mechanism aligns with the educational values of the University of Michigan and under what, if any, circumstances its use is merited.

***Movant:** Neil Marsh, Professor of Chemistry, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Professor of Biological Chemistry, Medical School*

***Supporting Members:***

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<sup>1</sup> See Mathew Kim, “[Early decision and financial aid competition among need-blind colleges and universities.](#)” *Journal of Public Economics* 94, no. 5-6 (2010): 410-20; and Karen Bussey, Kimberly Dancy, Alyse Gray Parker, Eleanor Eckerson Peters, and Mamie Voight, “[Eliminating Early Decision Policies.](#)” chap. 3 in “*The Most Important Door that Will Ever Open*”: *Realizing the Mission of Higher Education Through Equitable Admission Policies* (IHEP, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Beth Kraemer, “[The Admissions Funnel Is Clogged. Here’s How to Fix It.](#)” *The Chronicle*, January 22, 2026.

*Colleen Conway, Professor of Music Education, School of Music, Theatre & Dance*

*Elena Gallo, Professor of Astronomy, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

*Allen Liu, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Associate Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering and Medical School and Professor of Biophysics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

*Approved by the University Senate on April 30, 2026*

*Results: Yes, 1364 (76.3%); No 424 (23.7%); Abstain 548 - Motion PASSED*