DRAFT RESOLUTION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, BEST PRACTICE, AND UNILATERAL IMPOSITIONS

WHEREAS The Faculty has consistently advocated for fiscal responsibility at UH; and

WHEREAS One aspect of being fiscally responsible is financial decision-making based on evidence and transparency; and

WHEREAS Claims have been made that the UH System is fiscally insolvent, and that the only solution is to cut faculty salaries; and

WHEREAS Little evidence has been offered to support these claims; and

WHEREAS Faculty members are professionally habituated to reject proposals based on spurious data and/or unsupported assertions; and

WHEREAS Unilateral imposition by a University administration of decisions affecting the academic mission of the University, without meaningful faculty consultation, violates acceptable practice as spelled out in the Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities issued jointly by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges in 1966; and

WHEREAS The Faculty has been prepared to engage in legitimate shared-governance decision-making to address the financial situation and has sought evidence necessary for such decision-making to occur; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that

The Faculty requests that the University System Administration provide documented evidence to back any assertions of fiscal insolvency; and

The Faculty requests evidence showing that cuts to faculty salaries, elimination of programs, firing of faculty or any other decisions affecting the academic mission of the University are necessary; and

The Faculty requests evidence that all feasible remedies with less impact on the academic mission of the University have been implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

The University Administration provide evidence that best practice, including meaningful faculty involvement, has been followed in the determination, evaluation, and proposed use of the evidence referenced above.