RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND FUNDING FOR THE MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM (MAP)

February 18, 2015

WHEREAS, the University of Chicago is one of the foremost institutions of higher education in Illinois, the nation, and the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Government (SG) of the University of Chicago is charged with the duty of furthering the interests and promoting the welfare of the Student Association; and,

WHEREAS, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) provides grant assistance to Illinois residents with financial need who are attending approved public and private two- and four-year colleges and universities; and,

WHEREAS, more than 200 students in the College receive a MAP grant; and,

WHEREAS, last year, more than 200,000 MAP-eligible students in Illinois did not receive this funding which would better enable them to attend college; and

WHEREAS, investing in MAP makes college more affordable for all students by allowing colleges to spend less on financial aid for MAP recipients and thus moderate tuition for other students; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Illinois State Board of Higher Education, college graduates can expect to earn approximately $20,000 more per year in Illinois than those with just a high school diploma; and,

WHEREAS, greater earnings by Illinois residents will directly provide the state of Illinois with increased revenue in the form of income, sales, and property taxes; and,

WHEREAS, college graduates, more generally, tend to be less reliant on other forms of social welfare spending, providing the state the potential to save significantly on these expenses over time; and,

WHEREAS, MAP is vital in helping Illinois students, regardless of financial background, pursue a college degree; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the College Council of the Student Government of the University of Chicago, assembled on this day the eighteenth of February do hereby implore that the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Rauner support MAP grant funding in the state budget and empower the Illinois Student
Commission (ISAC) to make improvements to the program to ensure its long-lasting future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also urge the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Rauner to commit to efforts to increase state MAP funding to $425 million in order to meet the demand for these funds.

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Tyler Kissinger
President
Student Government