

Question Time

Could Vice-Chancellor Creager speak to how the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) were used to wipe the debts of students who owed the university money? I am happy to hear that student debt was erased in some cases and that those students were able to enroll in classes, but I have a series of questions:

1. Were all student debts paid off? If not, how were decisions made about whose debt was paid off and whose was not?
2. Were any considerations made to prioritize students with the most financial need?
3. Is there a chance we are setting these students up for financial failure if they will simply rack up this debt again and HEERF funds will not be there to bail them out?
4. How much money was wiped from student debt?
5. Was there a reason this use of funds was prioritized over other ways to help students on campus during the pandemic like more robust access to mental health services, assistance with remote teaching, enhanced COVID testing, etc.?
6. Is there any peculiarity about essentially paying the university with HEERF funds?

A. Nasr (question from an anonymous faculty member)