Passed in SSE Council, 28 January 2025, by unanimous vote of the representatives present (12–0, 2 voting members absent)

Motion Regarding Changes to the University's Model for Distribution of F&A (Indirect Cost Recovery)

The SSE Council strongly disagrees with the recent administrative decision to overhaul the Research Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Distribution model with no input from faculty governance bodies. The new model will have profoundly negative consequences for research within our School, and the enigmatic process through which the changes were developed is antithetical to the values of Shared Governance.

- The new model replaces the IDC recovery model announced on 19 March 2018 in an e-mail titled "Announcing Changes to the F&A Distribution Policy: Doubling Allocation to Faculty". This message used the word "Policy" and noted "maintaining SLU's facilities and administrative infrastructure for research costs significantly more than $7.5m, but…it is essential to enable faculty to invest in their own research programs — to be empowered as entrepreneurs as we envisioned in our strategic plan."

- The 2018 indirect cost (IDC) recovery model was critical in giving departments and principal investigators the resources needed to push SLU over the line in achieving Carnegie R1 status. Now that R1-status has been achieved, the rug is being pulled from beneath us. Departments have grown to rely on those funds to support important research infrastructure such as shared instrumentation, including instrument acquisition, maintenance, and service contracts. These are inexorable commitments associated with expenses that departments must now scramble to cover on short notice.

- To our knowledge, faculty governance bodies (e.g., Faculty Senate, SSE Council and similar bodies at the college-level) were not openly consulted prior to the changes being announced at the Faculty Senate meeting of 21 January 2025. While feedback was heard by the Administration, it was stated that the model would not be reexamined for another two years. These important changes should have been brought to Faculty Senate, college-level Councils, and research councils (e.g., SERC and HRC) for substantive feedback prior to finalization of the model. Instead, the model was brought to faculty as a *fait accompli*.

- The Council recognizes the University's financial difficulties and the need for modification of current policies, but this new policy will create new and immediate financial difficulties for departments. Wholesale changes like those made to the IDC recovery model should be made through the usual channels, transparently, with substantive faculty input.

The SSE Council directs the body's Executive Committee to communicate this statement to the Office of the President, the Provost, the Interim Vice President of Research, and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.

The SSE Council directs its five Faculty Senators to raise these concerns for further deliberation and action at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.