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Memo Regarding MAP Grants for Spring 2016

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As the registration period for Spring 2016 moves forward, I want you to know that Governors State University has decided to apply a student account credit to students who have been awarded a Monetary Award Program [MAP] grant. We did the same thing for the Fall 2015 MAP awards; that is, we honored the obligation of the State of Illinois to include MAP funding in students' financial aid packages. We have taken these steps because the State has not yet released funds for the MAP grants to the universities. By applying credits to students' accounts, the university, not its students, will be assuming the risk created by the state budget stalemate.

MAP funding from the state is just one part of the budget impact for Governors State University and all Illinois public universities. While GSU is taking on the liability for MAP funding, a decision by the state simply to provide MAP money would not be enough—not nearly enough. While we are committed to relieving you, our students, from fears and worries about financial aid, we also want to be clear that receiving MAP funds from the state must be one of many elements of adequate state support. The major issue, which remains deadlocked, is a university-wide operating budget that allows us to deliver the high quality education that you deserve and that ultimately benefits the public good.

Please focus on completing your bachelor's degrees, participating as informed citizens, and using your education to strengthen our state and our nation.