

**RESOLUTION #5**

**Part-Time Faculty Eligibility For Public Service Loan Forgiveness,  
Regardless Of Part-Time Status**

- WHEREAS:** Between 1975 and 2015, the number of part-time faculty teaching college has increased from twenty-four percent (24%) to forty percent (40%) of the labor force; and
- WHEREAS:** The number of tenure-track positions decreased accordingly, moving from forty-five percent (45%) of faculty being either tenured or on the tenure track in 1975 to twenty-nine percent (29%) in 2015; and
- WHEREAS:** The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program is available to full-time employees of eligible non-profits and forgives student debt after ten years of payments (120 payments); and
- WHEREAS:** College faculty non-profit higher education institutions are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, and so long as they maintain full-time status for two semesters of the academic year, it will be considered one year toward loan forgiveness; and
- WHEREAS:** Part-time faculty at non-profit higher education institutions are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, so long as they achieve full-time status by working at multiple institutions; and
- WHEREAS:** Part-time faculty find it nearly impossible to maintain full-time eligibility, due to the reduced course offerings and course cancellations as well as the geographic difficulty of commuting between several colleges; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to the contingent nature of their employment, many part-time faculty qualify for income-based student loan repayment and still struggle to repay their student loans; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan will support an effort to revise Public Service Loan Forgiveness to make it available to part-time faculty even if they are below full-time employment; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That each semester a part-time faculty person teaches should count as six months toward the ten years needed for loan forgiveness, so long as that person also qualifies for income-based repayment of the loan during the same period; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED:** Just as a full-time employee can apply for the program and have their eligibility begin in October 2007 when the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program began, October 2007 should be considered the first month that part-time faculty would be eligible to have semesters of teaching counted toward forgiveness.

Submitted by:

Revised and recommended for adoption by the Legislation & Resolutions Committee

Approved by AFT Michigan 75<sup>th</sup> Convention (May 19, 2018)