On October 13, 2010 The Greenfield Community College Assembly unanimously passed the following resolution:

The mission of GCC is to educate the community it serves. As such, the GCC Assembly encourages all members to understand the impact should 2010 Massachusetts Statewide Ballot Question 3 be passed.

Question 3 is a proposed law that will appear on the November 2, 2010 ballot as a result of an initiative petition. If passed, Question 3 would reduce the state sales tax from 6.25% to 3%, resulting in the loss of an estimated $2.5 billion in revenues each year.

A cut in state funding would inevitably result in a serious decrease in the services and academic opportunities offered by GCC. Similarly, it would cause serious revenue reductions for most if not all public service agencies such as education, public safety, health care, and public works. Such cutbacks would cause an adverse impact on our fragile economy.

Greenfield Community College has near record enrollment at this time. Demand for courses and programs that allow unemployed or underemployed workers to retool is up. The need for financial aid for students has never been greater. Yet the percentage of GCC’s operating budget that is paid with state funds is now at a record low. If Question 3 is passed, further reductions in revenues for GCC will be happening at the very time when the services and opportunities we provide are desperately needed by the citizens and communities we serve.