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Aldemaro Romero Jr.
CUNY Bernard M Baruch College

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Graduate endowments are under scrutiny

In this environment of high student debt, rising tuition costs, and falling financial resources, the management of higher education, many politicians are asking for less in the way of college and university funding.

And this is not new. In 2007 and 2008 Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Texas Representative Joe Barton (R) sent letters to the Universities and Major University endowments, alerting them to the need for a reduction in their financial obligations. The same letters, this year, are again directed at graduate endowments of the Texas system with the same underlying concern. It is time for a reduction in the already high operating costs of the Texas system. The same politics are taking place in states where residents have a greater interest in obtaining their degrees in state, such as Texas and South Carolina.

The political and economic climate has created a perfect storm for the Texas system and other universities across the country. The financial crisis has led to a decrease in state funding, which has led to increased tuition costs and decreased enrollment. At the same time, the demand for higher education has remained strong, leading to increased competition among universities. The result is an over-supply of college graduates, which has led to a decline in the average salary for university professors and other faculty members.

The political environment has also played a role in the situation. Many politicians have expressed concern about the high cost of higher education and the need for a reduction in the cost of college. This has led to calls for increased transparency and accountability in the use of endowments, as well as calls for a reduction in the amount of money that is invested in the endowments. The result is a political environment that is ripe for change and reform.

The challenge for the Texas system and other universities is to find a way to meet these challenges while maintaining the high quality of education that is expected of them. This will require a combination of increased efficiency, innovation, and a willingness to adapt to changing conditions. The endowments of the Texas system, and other universities, can play a role in this effort by making choices that reflect the needs of the current environment.

In conclusion, the situation facing the Texas system and other universities is complex and challenging. It requires a combination of creativity, hard work, and a willingness to adapt. The endowments of the Texas system, and other universities, can play a key role in meeting these challenges and ensuring the continued success of higher education for all students.