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4 **A RESOLUTION**  
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6 To allocate \$50,000 from Org. Unit 1940-1945 – Appropriation for Contingencies to Org.  
7 Unit 8521 for allocation to the Local 212 Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)  
8 Faculty and Students Together Fund (FAST Fund) to specifically mitigate student  
9 housing insecurity so pupils can graduate, become successful, and improve their  
10 societal contributions  
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12  
13 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) is Wisconsin’s only  
14 majority-minority college and MATC reports approximately 70 percent of its students are  
15 low-income and 83 percent of its students are Milwaukee County residents; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, according to the 2015 University of Wisconsin – Madison study  
18 titled, “Hungry to Learn: Addressing Food & Housing Insecurity Among  
19 Undergraduates”, “[H]alf of all community college students are struggling with food  
20 and/or housing insecurity. Fully 20 percent are hungry and 13 percent are homeless.  
21 These numbers are startling and indicate the need for a multi-pronged, comprehensive  
22 set of institutional, state, and local policies to alleviate the barriers presented by poverty,  
23 so as to improve educational success.”; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, according to an August 2020 Georgetown University report titled,  
26 “Driving Home Costs Beyond Tuition: A New Look at Older Students’ Challenges  
27 Affording Housing,” higher education costs beyond tuition are 2.5 to 4 times greater  
28 than tuition, with a greater burden falling on older students due to their typically  
29 increased responsibilities, with housing being the single biggest challenge; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, according to a May 2020 Brookings Institution report titled,  
32 “Opportunity Engines: Middle-Class Mobility in Higher Education,” at least some form of  
33 higher education is required for upward mobility and middle-class living, particularly  
34 from institutions which have higher per pupil instructional spending; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, motivated by an understanding of the data indicating impediments to  
37 studying many college students face, the American Federation of Teachers Local 212,  
38 representing faculty and staff of MATC since 1930, created the Faculty and Students  
39 Together Fund (FAST Fund) in 2016 as an independent nonprofit to help ensure  
40 hunger, transportation, housing instability, and poverty are not learning obstacles, so

41 students may focus on their studies, remain enrolled, and graduate to move on to  
42 successful careers and be productive members of society; and

43

44 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Public Television (MPTV) program *Adelante* featured  
45 a segment about MATC's FAST Fund which reported:

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- 47 • Many students are lower middle class, poor, or do not qualify for financial aid
- 48 • 61 percent of students qualify for Pell Grants, which are typically awarded only to  
49 low-income students
- 50 • Current and retired MATC faculty and staff have been the Fund's primary donors

51

52 ; and

53

54 WHEREAS, the FAST Fund in the 2020-2021 academic year raised \$2,223,270,  
55 \$2 million of which was an endowment from the family of the late Mary Anne Gross, a  
56 retired MATC faculty member, and the FAST Fund anticipates a yield of \$60,000 per  
57 year from the endowment; and

58

59 WHEREAS, the FAST Fund Director reports the Fund has helped students meet  
60 the basic needs of housing, food insecurity, tuition and college costs, transportation,  
61 and other expenses so students may focus on studying:

62

Academic Year	Dollars Expended	Total Students Helped
2016-2017	\$21,950	26
2017-2018	\$33,405	109
2018-2019	\$89,293	298
2019-2020	\$94,401	344
2020-2021	\$140,338	433

63

64 ; and

65

66 WHEREAS, in 2020, Milwaukee County appropriated \$35,000 for the MATC  
67 FAST Fund in File No. 20-678, and the FAST Fund reports that in the 2020-2021  
68 academic year, approximately \$30,000 was spent directly on housing insecurity and the  
69 remaining approximate \$5,000 was spent on utility fees; and

70 WHEREAS, in the spirit of continuing the safety net which protects local  
71 residents and serves as a future investment for Milwaukee County's prosperity; and  
72

73 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of December 9, 2021,  
74 recommended adoption of File No. 21-985 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,  
75

76 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby  
77 authorizes and directs the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of  
78 Administrative Services to process an administrative transfer of \$50,000 from Org. Unit  
79 1940-1945 Appropriation for Contingencies to Org. Unit 8521, Account 8123 –  
80 Department of Health and Human Services Housing Division Administration to  
81 cooperate with the Local 212 Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) Faculty and  
82 Students Together (FAST) Fund to enable distribution of those funds, pursuant to and in  
83 conformity with Wis. Stat. §§ 59.53, 66.1201 to 66.1211 et seq., also in conformity with  
84 guidance provided by the Wisconsin Office of the Attorney General opinion OAG-01-17,  
85 specifically for the MATC FAST Fund to mitigate student housing insecurity with these  
86 funds to remove a barrier to graduation and success; and  
87

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Housing Division is requested to make  
89 contingent upon Milwaukee County's appropriation to the FAST Fund an agreement  
90 whereby Milwaukee County may review the financial records of the FAST Fund upon  
91 request to audit and verify taxpayer dollars are spent toward student housing insecurity  
92 pursuant to the aforementioned and relevant State statutes and the mission of  
93 Milwaukee County.  
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95  
96 12/09/2021  
97 S:\Committees\2021\Dec\FINANCE\Resolutions\21-985 Shea - MATC FAST Fund - no edits.docx