

UNIVERSITY SENATE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: University Faculty Senators
J. Philippe Abraham, Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Daniel White

Date: December 12, 2011

Resolution: Resolved that the University at Albany Senate endorses the two resolutions (below) passed by the University Faculty Senate on October 22, 2011.

University Faculty Senate
Executive Committee
159th Plenary
Purchase College
October 22, 2011
Resolution on Evaluation of Shared Services

Whereas, the University Faculty Senate has been concerned about increases in administrative costs, its effects on resources available for academic programs and services, and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees has indicated in its resolution of June 15, 2011, that SUNY campuses should find ways to share and/or consolidate administrative services, realign academic offerings and enhance procurement efficiencies to allow for enhanced spending on instruction and student services, and

Whereas, System Administration has encouraged campuses to find ways to share services through regional and other partnerships, and

Whereas, System Administration is establishing an oversight process to review these shared services and other cost-saving measures,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the University Faculty Senate requests that the Chancellor ensure the oversight process includes:

- a system-wide committee consisting of faculty (including a representative of the UFS Operations Committee), students, and administrative staff, to guide this process, and
- appropriate measures (such as benchmarking) and procedures for fiscal accountability be identified and developed, in order to calculate the savings achieved from any and all of these shared services, and
- these measures demonstrate the extent to which enhanced spending on academic programs is achieved, and
- both quantitative and qualitative outcomes resulting from shared services be identified, considered, and addressed, and
- in order to facilitate transparency and assist campuses in assessing institutional effectiveness, data collected by SUNY as part of this initiative be available to campus administrations and local governance bodies, and

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Be it Further Resolved that a report on the shared services initiative be presented to the University Faculty Senate no less frequently than annually.

159-02-1

Resolution on Evaluation of Shared Services

**University Faculty Senate
Executive Committee
159th Plenary
Purchase College
October 22, 2011**

Resolution on Shared Services

Whereas, both SUNY System Administration and the University Faculty Senate are committed to making SUNY one of the premier systems of higher education in the world, and

Whereas, the administration and governance bodies on each SUNY campus are equally committed to making their institution one of high quality, and

Whereas, the time-honored mechanism of “shared governance” is the means by which the administration and governance bodies both across SUNY and on individual campuses can work effectively and efficiently toward that common goal, and

Whereas, shared governance requires detailed, timely, and relevant information through a significant consultation process prior to any formal decision, and

Whereas, the recent policy of SUNY to reduce expenses by having campuses share services on a regional, sector or mission basis is an appropriate policy initiative worthy of careful consideration and consultation in the current economic environment, and

Whereas, the scope, nature and provision of administrative and student services directly and indirectly impact the curriculum, methods of instruction and other academic matters that are the primary responsibility of the faculty, and

Whereas, the proposed policy of having two campuses share a president was developed without significant consultation with the University Faculty Senate, the relevant College Councils, or the relevant campus governance organizations,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the proposed policy of two campuses sharing a presidency be carefully examined through significant consultation with the appropriate UFS representatives, the affected College Councils and the local governance bodies before implementation, and

Be It Further Resolved that representatives from the existing governance bodies on each alliance campus be included in the work groups that are considering shared services across the regional campus alliance, and

Be It Further Resolved that decisions regarding the sharing of services among campuses be made only after significant consultation with the appropriate campus governance body, and

Be It Further Resolved that the System Administration and UFS leadership work to clarify the forms by which appropriate consultation occurs *before* the implementation of significant new policies or actions that affect the state-operated campuses.

159-03-1

Resolution on Evaluation of Shared Services

October 22, 2011

Passed Unanimously w/o Dissent