

University Senate of the University at Albany

Resolution on the Effect of New York State's Budget on SUNY

Whereas, SUNY is being treated budgetarily as being similar to other state agencies in the Executive Branch, and

Whereas, contrary to the other state agencies, SUNY is not only a provider of important services but it is also a critical investment in the future of New York State, and

Whereas, the level of budget cuts currently announced will substantially weaken the academic reputation and status of SUNY as an institution of high academic quality by causing a serious loss of current faculty and making the recruitment of new talent (faculty and students) almost impossible, and

Whereas, the current budget cuts are so severe that they will undermine New York State's investment in its future by making it more difficult for students to have access to the courses and programs they require, which will lengthen the time that they take to graduate and thus delay their entrance as productive members of society and the labor force as well as also incurring greater costs for their education, and

Whereas, the current financial crisis that is gripping New York State and the nation, and which is likely to continue for several years, will lead to increased unemployment that will result in an increase in the numbers of citizens seeking to acquire new or to enhance existing job skills by enrolling in SUNY,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the University Faculty Senate, as the representative body through which the faculty and professional staff engage in the governance of the University, believes that SUNY should not sustain the same percentage budget reductions as other state agencies, and

Be it further resolved, that the state publicly acknowledges SUNY as a significant investment in its future and as an engine of economic productivity that New York State sorely needs, and

Be it further resolved, that the faculty and academic and professional staff, who define the university, must be preserved at all costs even during periods of budget shortfalls, and

Be it further resolved, that the SUNY adopts a "rational tuition policy" that leads to small, predictable, annual tuition increases tied to a relevant inflationary index such as the Higher Education Price Index, which should not be used as an alternative to required state appropriation, and

Be it further resolved, that Governor Paterson and the Legislature should restore to SUNY a substantial portion of the budgets cuts already made and provide sufficient funds in continuing years to maintain SUNY as one of the premier institutions of public higher education in the country.

150-01-1 passed without dissent
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October 18, 2008