

MEMORANDUM

July 17, 2013

TO: Members of the UAlbany Council

FROM: UAlbany Council President, Michael Castellana

SUBJECT: Empowering Resolution to Implement the Separation of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and the State University of New York at Albany

The following resolution will be considered at our 10am meeting this morning.

Resolution

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo's comprehensive workforce training, job creation, and economic growth agenda for New York provides strategic investments for educational, research and development, technology transfer, and business outreach in the emerging nanotechnology sector in New York State and fosters critical partnerships between State government, the private sector and the State University of New York; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York has led the U.S. in multibillion dollar strategic investments in innovation and education programs that cover the entire spectrum of the nanotechnology sector, from long-term innovative research and development, to workforce development and education, to product prototyping and commercialization; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, "The Power of SUNY" strategic plan is quickly establishing SUNY as a key engine for the revitalization of New York State's economy and a catalyst for enhancing the quality of life for the State's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State University of New York at Albany (UAlbany) is an internationally recognized public research institution that brings "The World Within Reach" to more than 17,300 graduate and undergraduate students who can choose from 118 undergraduate majors and 113 graduate programs, many of which are nationally ranked; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2004-41, adopted unanimously on April 20, 2004, the SUNY Board of Trustees established the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) as a separate academic unit within UAlbany, headed by a Vice President who serves as its chief administrative officer reporting directly to the President of the University; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2008-65, adopted unanimously on November 18, 2008, the SUNY Board of Trustees granted full administrative, academic and fiscal authority over CNSE's internal management and operations and those

pertaining to its state-wide educational, research and economic outreach mission to the CNSE Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, CNSE – as a UAlbany academic unit with strategic, administrative, and infrastructure support from UAlbany’s leadership, faculty and staff – has successfully established itself as a world-class leader and enabler of the discovery and dissemination of fundamental knowledge in the emerging interdisciplinary fields of nanoscience, nanoengineering, nanoeconomics, and nanobioscience, leading to the successful implementation of its overarching objective of providing the citizens of New York State with scholarly innovation and education programs of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, a new structure would ensure optimum execution of nanotechnology-enabled research and manufacturing programs in support of state-wide innovation, education, workforce training, business development and economic outreach, thereby establishing and retaining the critical mass of intellectual and physical resources and capabilities that will lead to the creation and retention of high-paying, high-technology jobs and ensuring maximum return on investment for the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, a new structure would facilitate greater intellectual connectivity to UAlbany and to other campuses across the SUNY system, and will enable UAlbany to focus on complementary and other academic and research pursuits; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of UAlbany to restart the strategic investment process – to invest anew in strategic areas that will become the essential elements of UAlbany’s reputation and distinctive contribution which will require access to a recurring strategic investment fund; and

WHEREAS, the University of Albany will seek the support of SUNY in pursuing a NYSED/Board of Regents Master Plan Amendment, and other requisite approvals to ensure that UAlbany is able to offer the full spectrum of academic programs (i.e., including niche engineering) comparable to the other University Centers and major public research universities across the country; and

WHEREAS, UAlbany seeks the flexibility and latitude to develop and expand its academic program in other areas of strength and opportunity including climate and environmental science, health sciences, information technology and other emerging technologies; and

WHEREAS, UAlbany and CNSE, unlike other SUNY campuses, are geographically connected and, therefore, as CNSE evolves into a new degree granting structure the respective academic programs of both the University at Albany and CNSE will remain mutually compatible rather than competitive and SUNY will develop provisions to ensure that neither institution creates and/or offers competing academic programs; and

WHEREAS, UAlbany will seek the support of SUNY in securing alternative land resources to replace those lost during the evolution of CNSE as an independent campus; and

WHEREAS, the primary and ideal expansion option for UAlbany is to secure a portion of the Harriman Campus (given its proximity to the Uptown Campus), which has been under discussion for over ten years, and which would permit UAlbany (which has very limited property to develop) to capitalize on the Governor's START-UP NY Initiative, as well to pursue other strategic opportunities to expand its research profile in health and life sciences, as well as atmospheric and environmental science; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UAlbany Council fully endorses the UAlbany President and UAlbany Council President (where applicable) in taking immediate steps to implement the separation of CNSE and UAlbany, and to identify and assist in the implementation of the actions required to establish a new degree-granting structure that shall include CNSE, at which time the separation will commence, and be subject to oversight and governance by the Board of Trustees by the commencement of the 2014-15 academic year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UAlbany President be authorized and empowered to develop a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UAlbany and CNSE which provides a new financial arrangement to provide on-going support for CNSE students, faculty, and operations. The financial model should be founded on a comprehensive analysis of all student, faculty and other operating supports provided to CNSE; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UAlbany Council will support the University at Albany as it strengthens its current programs and works to develop and bolster key strategic areas as well as preserve the core interests of both institutions by ensuring compatible and complementary educational programs.