

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Michael N. Hatton DDM (author) and Philip L. Glick, MD, MBA, SUNY UFS Senator (UFS Sponsor)
RE: SUNY-wide commencement policy when announcing the names of those students who hold current United States military rank at their commencement ceremony
DATE: 178th Plenary, January 18-20, 2018
LOCATION: SUNY Polytechnic Institute at Utica
RESOLUTION #: 178-09-03
VOTE TALLY: [Referred to Student Life Committee]

RATIONALE:

Many students who attend SUNY campuses concurrently serve in our nation's military components, which include active duty, National Guard, and Reserve. In addition, many SUNY campuses have Reserve Officer Training Core (ROTC) programs, or have an affiliation with ROTC programs. Senior SUNY students who are ROTC cadets generally commission in the military as officers shortly before they graduate. This resolution addresses a suggested SUNY-wide policy towards recognition of proper military title among SUNY's most honorable students who are also serving in the United States military services.

WHEREAS many SUNY campuses offer associated ROTC programs; and

WHEREAS SUNY schools have students with military rank that serve in military services of the United States; and

WHEREAS a rank in the United States military services also carries with it great honor, dignity and gravitas; and

WHEREAS SUNY students who have attained a rank in the United States military services should be honored at their graduation by addressing them as they request.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor to direct, via a written policy, all campus CAO's (provosts) and their deans that all SUNY students who hold a current rank or honorably discharged rank in the United States Military Services may (voluntarily) have their military title announced to the audience as they march in their commencement ceremony to receive their diplomas beginning in the Spring 2018. ~~Honorably discharged military students must show their discharge papers indicating they retired with an honorable discharge. Active duty, reserve duty, or ROTC students must get written documentation from their XO (executive officer) to verify their rank.~~ **Campuses will create verification procedures for rank requests.**

BACKGROUND: See "Rationale," above.